

Kingdom observes King's assumption of constitutional powers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Prime Minister's office Tuesday issued a statement announcing that government departments and public institutions will be closed on Saturday, May 2 in observance of the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers. King Hussein who acceded to the Hashemite Throne on Aug. 11, 1952 when he was 17 years old, assumed his powers on May 2, 1953.

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King visits Tunisia today

'I am determined not to have it become a peace between governments but peace between people'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein is set to pay a state visit to Tunisia today at the invitation of Tunisian President Zain Al Abidine Ben Ali, according to a Royal Court statement.

The statement said that the visit reflects the strong brotherly relations between Jordan and Tunisia and part of the efforts exerted to further bolster inter-Arab relations.

On Tuesday, King Hussein and the accompanying delegation visited a Danish military air base and listened to a briefing by the base commander. The King watched military exercises and airshows performed by air-base pilots.

Also Tuesday, King Hussein, Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Prince Ali



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received by Danish Queen Margrethe at a banquet hosted by the Copenhagen mayor in their honour Tuesday

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Musa predicts failure in London, raises possibility of 'immediate' Arab summit

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Awar Musa said here Tuesday he expects upcoming London talks to fail in reviving the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Mr. Musa, who came to Gaza City after attending talks in Cairo between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said it was "probable" the London talks would fail.

He also raised the possibility of an "immediate" Arab summit if the talks fail in London on May 4 between U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

"Let us wait for the London meetings. If they produce nothing, we must bear our duty. I do not rule out an immediate Arab summit, especially if we reach a stage of crisis," Mr. Musa told Palestinian Television.

"Contacts are going on between [Arab] foreign ministers [for a summit] more than at any time in the past," he said. "If the London talks fail, and this is probable, the alternative is not just to hold an Arab summit. It must be international effort," he said, apparently referring to an international conference on the peace process.

Mr. Musa met in Gaza City with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to bring him a message sent by Mr. Mubarak after his talks with Mr. Netanyahu about the deadlock in the peace process, which has lasted for more than a year.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu are to meet separately with Ms. Albright to discuss a U.S. package proposal which is said to call on Israel to conduct a long-promised troop withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

(Continued on page 7)

Mubarak urges Netanyahu to try save Mideast peace

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday urged Israel's prime minister to do what he can to save the Mideast peace process at next week's London conference aimed at nudging forward stalled peace talks.

Mr. Mubarak held separate discussions with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. envoy Martin Indyk at his Al Salam Palace to try to encourage success at the crucial American-mediated London meeting.

Henry Siegman, an American Middle East expert, also met with Mr. Mubarak and quoted the Egyptian leader as saying he urged Mr. Netanyahu to do "everything he can to make that meeting a success." Neither Mr. Mubarak nor Mr. Netanyahu spoke

to reporters after their discussions, but Mr. Mubarak had told NBC's "Today" show Tuesday that the peace negotiations were "really frozen." Progress in the talks came to a halt in March 1997 after Israel announced plans to build a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, an area Palestinians want as the capital of an independent state.

Mr. Siegman, who is a member of a private U.S. group, the Council on Foreign Relations, said after seeing Mr. Mubarak that the London meeting was "potentially a critical chapter in the peace process." U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to meet separately with Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian

(Continued on page 7)

Inaugurated by Regent yesterday COPEX boasts participation of over 80 international companies

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talal, the Regent, on Tuesday inaugurated the Contingent and Operational Procurement Exhibition (COPEX) with the participation of more than 80 military technology companies representing both Arab and foreign firms.

Military delegations from 44 states are attending the three-day exhibition, at the King Abdullah Air Base, including the defence minister of Ukraine, Alexander Kozomok, and other senior officials from Arab and foreign states. Non-Arab countries participating include companies from the United States, France, Ukraine, Romania, Italy, Switzerland and Denmark. Among the Arab countries participating are Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE and Saudi Arabia, and



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talal, the Regent, and Prince Abdullah Commander of the Special Forces, inspect new weapons and military technology at the Contingent and Operational Procurement Exhibition (COPEX) held in Amman Tuesday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Egypt. COPEX features different types of military equipment such as armed vehicles, machineguns, helicopters, amphibious vehicles, tanks and communications systems.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel to slap closure on W. Bank, Gaza over weekend

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel will place a closure on the West Bank and Gaza over independence day weekend, barring thousands of Palestinians from entering the Jewish state, the army announced.

The closure will go into effect Tuesday night, as Israel begins its 24-hour commemoration of remembrance day for fallen soldiers. It will last until the end of celebrations for the country's 50th anniversary Saturday night.

Kuwait to free 25 Jordanian detainees — report

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Monday was unable to confirm news reports from Kuwait City that another 25 Jordanians held at a Kuwaiti deportation centre will return home.

Officials at various ministries, including the ministries of interior and foreign affairs, said they received no notification of their release. Efforts to contact Kuwaiti authorities failed due to a public holiday observed in the emirate yesterday.

Kuwait on Monday freed 13 Jordanians imprisoned since 1991 for allegedly collaborating with Iraq

during the Gulf war.

The release was made possible by a special pardon granted by Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on the occasion of the Islamic holiday of the Hijri new year.

News reports from Kuwait City yesterday quoted Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al Sabah as saying on Monday that an additional 25 Jordanians held at the Talha deportation centre would be expelled and sent back home on a collective passport.

The reports did not provide details as to when the prisoners would be repatriated or how long they have

been at the deportation centre.

Talha station, south of the Kuwaiti capital, has recently been at the centre of a heated debate, with human rights organisations urging the Kuwaiti government to close the facility because of human rights violations and the centre's inadequacy to accommodate over 400 prisoners currently being held there.

Kuwait responded by saying that it could not close the station, because many of the prisoners held there either do not want to go home, or have nowhere to go to, or must pay overdue residency fees.

(Continued on page 7)

While Ross reports no progress, U.S. tells PNA it will not change its proposal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leaders said Tuesday they have won assurances from U.S. mediators that Washington's proposal for an Israeli troop withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank will not be watered down despite Israeli efforts.

Jewish settler leaders, meanwhile, complained that even the nine per cent pullback proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would endanger Jewish settlements.

In the event of such a withdrawal, 10 settlements would become isolated enclaves in Palestinian-run territory, said settler spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar.

Despite a flurry of diplomatic activity, U.S. mediator Dennis Ross appeared to be making no progress on the fourth day of his shuttle mission Tuesday. Mr. Ross faces a May 4 deadline when U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright expects clear answers from Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian

President Yasser Arafat on the U.S. compromise proposal. Ms. Albright is to hold separate meetings with Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat in London.

Palestinian negotiators have in principle accepted the U.S. plan, but insist that it be published formally. The Clinton administration has resisted so far, apparently out of concern this could be seen as undue pressure on Israel.

"Time is crucial," top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Ross has reassured us that the Americans are standing by their commitments in regard to their peace initiative... [but] the Americans have to declare their initiative officially and publicly." The United States has proposed that Israel gradually hand over 13.1 per cent of the territory to the Palestinians over 12 weeks, with each pullback linked to Mr. Arafat taking steps to curb terrorism. The Palestinians now have full or partial control over 27 per cent of the West Bank.

Israeli Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh said Tuesday that nothing would be achieved by the publication of the U.S. initiative. "The key to reaching any breakthrough, the key to

Clinton says that Arafat has made concessions, hints it's Israel's turn

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton praised Palestinian President Yasser Arafat for making concessions to break the deadlock in the peace process and hinted strongly that it was now Israel's turn to do the same, according to an interview published Tuesday.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Mr. Clinton as saying Mr. Arafat had notably lowered his expectations over a long-delayed Israeli troop pullback from the West Bank which is required under interim peace agreements.

"Chairman Arafat has certain territorial aspirations and he's clearly realigned them. And they're clearly willing to go forward," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton also praised action taken by Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority against the Islamist movement Hamas in recent weeks, clear-

ly indicating he thought this helped meet Israeli conditions for carrying out the troop withdrawal.

"I think Arafat, the way they handled this last Hamas case, I think should have built up his credibility a little bit," he said.

Mr. Arafat "took some risks, so now I think it's an important moment. We have to just make the most of it."

In a veiled criticism of Israel's reluctance to go ahead with the kind of troop withdrawal Washington says is needed to rescue the peace talks, Mr. Clinton noted that the last peace accord implemented by Israel was its withdrawal in January 1997 from most of the West Bank city of Hebron.

"It's been a long time since the Hebron agreement. It's been a long time since anything happened," he said.

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Security Council rolls over Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council on Monday maintained almost eight-year U.N. sanctions against Iraq, but acknowledged progress in dismantling Iraqi nuclear weapons.

Security Council hardliners Britain and the United States admitted for the first time that progress had been made on the nuclear file, but that more accounting was needed on Iraqi biological and chemical arms.

"We do acknowledge progress in the nuclear file," said U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson after closed-door discussions on an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report.

He specifically referred to data regarding nuclear enrichment, nuclear design and nuclear exports.

The council concluded at its prolonged closed-door consultations, which started early Monday, that "there was no consensus among the 15 members to modify the sanctions regime," Council president, Hisashi Owada of Japan, told reporters.

"Council members will continue to consult on the possibility of further Council action in connection with the IAEA report," Mr.

Owada added.

Russia has informally circulated a draft resolution that would effectively declare Iraq free of nuclear weapons in the light of a generally positive IAEA report to the council.

The Russian draft on Monday received the backing of permanent members China and France.

However, Mr. Richardson said: "We believe that it is premature to totally close that file without further steps being taken."

Washington is promoting a rival statement that would provide for the nuclear disarmament burden to shift to long-term monitoring in six months' time, and only if Iraq continues to cooperate with the U.N. inspectors.

British Ambassador Sir John Weston said that he felt the Russian draft resolution was "unnecessary and unbalanced."

The U.N. sanctions in force since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait can only be lifted when Iraq has fully complied in dismantling its nuclear, biological, chemical and long-range ballistic missiles.

Sahhaf reiterates: Special inspections not open-ended

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf on Tuesday again cast doubt on whether U.N. arms inspections of presidential sites are open-ended.

The minister, speaking at a news conference, stressed that unlimited inspections concerned "the usual work of disarmament, which is in place and which had been started since 1991. This is completely something else, not the presidential sites."

"Visits" of such sites are taking place under a special arrangement. Mr. Al Sahhaf noted, playing down the role of U.N. inspectors who are accompanied by teams of diplomats.

He recalled that an accord on access negotiated by U.N. chief Kofi Annan provides for "an initial visit. If it is not enough there will be subsequent visits. The initial visit has taken place."

"They found nothing. They found that the American-British allegations are false, despicable and baseless."

"If they will need, maybe a subsequent visit, and that's all. That's all," the minister went on. Mr. Annan has stressed that the memorandum of understanding he signed in Baghdad on Feb. 23 with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz provides for unlimited inspections of the presidential sites, which had previously been off-limits.

Mr. Al Sahhaf denied there was any contradiction between his position and that of Mr. Annan, saying: "We are in full agreement."

Al Sahhaf said that the "visits" were arranged because the United States and Britain had "alleged shamelessly" that weapons of mass destruction and related equipment were concealed at the eight presidential sites in Iraq.

(Continued on page 7)

Yassin visits Iran for talks with officials

TEHRAN (AFP) — Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, spiritual leader of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), arrived here Tuesday to hold talks with Iranian officials.

Sheikh Yassin was greeted at the airport by Hojatolislam Ali Tashiri, a cleric in charge of the Islamic Culture and Communication Organisation, which seeks to promote contact between Muslim coun-

tries. Speaking to reporters, the Palestinian leader praised Iran's stand on the Palestinian question. "Notably support for the Palestinian struggle against Israel."

"Western countries accuse us of being terrorists only because we want our rights, and they accuse Iran of terrorism because it fights Israeli policies," he said.

Sheikh Yassin, who is on a

tour of Gulf states, vowed that the Palestinians will continue to fight the Jewish state "until the liberation of their territories."

He is to hold talks with several Iranian officials and religious dignitaries, including possibly President Mohammad Khatami.

The 61-year-old spiritual guide and founder of Hamas, which has carried out several deadly anti-Israeli bomb

attacks, was released from an Israeli jail in October.

Earlier this month, he received medical treatment in Saudi Arabia, where he carried out the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca known as the Hajj. He has been in Qatar for the past week and is reportedly due in Tehran on Tuesday.

Iran, which calls for Israel's destruction, supports Hamas in its fight against the Jewish state.

Yemen child dies from wounds in clash, raising death toll to two

ADEN (AFP) — A child died Tuesday of a gunshot wound from a clash between demonstrators and police the previous day in southern Yemen, the opposition said.

The death of 13-year-old Faraj Morjan Ben Humam raised to two the number of dead from the clash in the city of Mukalla. The opposition said at least four other people, including two policemen, were wounded.

Yemeni police opened fire on Monday's demonstration, prompting calls from opposition parties based in the south for action against the police

officers involved.

In response to stone-throwing, the police fired on around 200 demonstrators in Mukalla, the main town of Hadramawt province, as they protested against the conviction of 13 former southern leaders, witnesses said.

There have been numerous demonstrations in Yemen against the March 23 convictions handed down by a court in Sanaa against leaders of the former South Yemen.

The 13, who all live in exile in the Gulf and Europe, were tried in absentia in connection with the country's 1994 civil

war in which former southern leaders tried to end the union agreed with the north three years earlier.

Five were sentenced to death for treason and eight were sentenced to prison terms of between two and 10 years, four of them suspended.

Among those condemned to death was Ali Salem Al Baid, former leader of the Yemen Socialist Party, who served as South Yemen's president and then as vice president following unification.

Baid has been living in Oman since 1994.

Ultra-Orthodox sect plans day of mourning for Israel's jubilee

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The most radical sect of ultra-Orthodox Jews, Neturei Karta, will hold a mourning procession Thursday to mark the 50th anniversary of Israel — a state they view as pagan, members of the group said Tuesday.

Neturei Karta members plan to parade through Jerusalem's main ultra-Orthodox quarter, Mea Shearim, on independence day wearing mourning clothes, they said.

Many ultra-Orthodox Jews view the creation of the state of Israel as blasphemous since their sacred texts say that a Jewish state cannot be recreated until the arrival of the Messiah in the Holy Land.

Other sects in the ultra-Orthodox community have declared Thursday a day of fasting and special prayers of lamentation.

The government has planned a huge gala celebration in Jerusalem for the jubilee on Thursday, the 50th anniversary according to the Hebrew calendar of the proclamation of Israel's creation on May 14, 1948.



TAHBOUB LAID TO REST: Palestinian mourners Tuesday carry the flag-draped coffin of Hassan Tahboub, minister of Waqf and Religious Affairs in the Palestinian self-rule Legislative Council, past the Dome of the Rock during his funeral. Tahboub, hospitalised for more than a month in Amman and who died on Monday aged 79, was responsible for the holy Islamic sites in Jerusalem (Reuters photo)

Wave of arrests in Iranian town supporting dissident cleric

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police have made a wave of arrests in a town in central Iran where residents have been on strike to protest restrictions imposed on a dissident senior cleric, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Jamee, a moderate daily, said police had arrested a number of prayer leaders, teachers and shopkeepers from the bazaar in Najafabad, the hometown of Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri in Esfahan province.

The authorities have also shut down around 40 businesses in the bazaar and arrested an unspecified number of merchants after they took part in the latest strike which began Saturday.

Farda (Tomorrow), a conservative newspaper, said shops in the bazaar and schools in Najafabad were closed Saturday in protest at Montazeri's house arrest in the holy city of Qom, also in central Iran.

It warned that the strike could continue in the coming days and criticised the authorities for their "lax" attitude.

Shopkeepers have gone on strike several times in the past month to voice support for the cleric, the disgraced former designated heir to the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Ayatollah Montazeri has been under increased police surveillance in Qom since

November when he criticised Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for dominating political affairs.

The latest strike came despite appeals from Ayatollah Montazeri to avoid public protests, according to newspapers.

Jamee said schools had reopened on Monday after closing for two straight days. It also said the business strike on Monday was in protest at the wave of arrests.

Ayatollah Montazeri's remarks against the leader in November provoked a wave of protests from conservative circles, which organised daily demonstrations throughout the country.

Families visit British nurses as hopes dashed for early release

DUBAI (AFP) — Family members have visited two British nurses jailed in Saudi Arabia over the murder of an Australian colleague, as hopes were dashed for their early release, sources close to the case said Tuesday.

The visit took place Monday in the eastern city of Dammam where Deborah Parry and Lucille McLaughlin have been held since December 1996, and a second encounter together with a defence lawyer was expected on Tuesday, they said.

The British embassy in Riyadh has declined any comment on the nurses' case since the family members flew in to Saudi Arabia on Sunday amid speculation that the women would soon be set free.

The British media, citing a Saudi defence lawyer, reported the same day that the nurses could be released "within 10 to 14 days" after King Fahd exercised his prerogative of granting a reprieve.

The Saudi ambassador in London, Ghazi Al Qossabi, played a major role in the decision to free the nurses by stressing the importance of maintaining good ties between the two countries, the reports said.

But on Monday, Mr. Qossabi himself said such reports were "without foundation."

"It is irresponsible to raise unjustified hopes with imaginary timeframes," he said. "When a decision is reached, this embassy will release it officially. All I can say at this point is that such decision is not imminent."

Mr. Qossabi said last week that the king was "sympathetically" considering an appeal from the nurses' families.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on April 19 after talks in Saudi Arabia that the monarch was giving serious consideration to their appeal for the nurses to be freed.

One of the sources close to the case blamed the media rumour for the delay. "If they [the authorities] were planning to release them soon, they're certainly not going to now," he said, contacted from Dubai.

Parry, 40, of Alton in southern England, is awaiting sentencing in her trial before an Islamic court that began last May for the 1996 murder of Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford at a military hospital in Dammam.

She escaped the risk of being beheaded when Gilford's brother Frank waived his right to demand the death penalty in exchange for blood money, as allowed by Islamic law.

McLaughlin, 32, from Dundee, Scotland, is appealing her sentence of eight years in jail and 500 lashes for complicity in the murder of Gilford, who was stabbed, battered and suffocated.

Iraq celebrates Saddam's birthday despite renewed sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq celebrated the 61st birthday of President Saddam Hussein on Tuesday, not allowing the U.N. Security Council's renewal of crippling economic sanctions to spoil the party.

"The celebration for the leader Saddam Hussein's birthday is the people's best response to our enemies," said the official daily Al Iraq, referring to U.S. insistence on keeping the almost eight-year-old embargo firmly in place.

Babel, a paper run by the president's eldest son Uday, said the festivities were "a show of defiance" by the 22 million people of Iraq.

Newspapers listed President Hussein's achievements over his 19 years in power, without mention of the Security Council's decision late Monday to maintain the sanctions which have been in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The birthday also monopolised broadcasts on Iraqi radio and television which, like the rest of the official media, had insisted in previous days on a lifting of sanctions.

The decision to roll over the embargo "did not come as a surprise, because America has been carrying out a policy of collective genocide against us" ever since 1990, said civil servant Salima Jabbar, heading off for a birthday party.

Apart from the sanctions, heavy early-morning rains were also not allowed to put a damper on the celebrations, which were launched several days in advance with a nationwide programme of concerts, folk dancing and art exhibitions.

Hundreds of cakes have been baked for street parties in cities and villages, which have been decorated with banners, flags and lanterns for the occasion.

Slices of birthday cake were on offer Tuesday in ministries, schools, universities, trade union offices, factories and offices of Mr. Hussein's ruling Baath Party.

It was not clear where the president would spend his birthday. In past years, Iraqi television has shown him sharing a cake with schoolchildren brought to Baghdad from the provinces.

The main celebrations — a parade and the unveiling of a giant statue of President Hussein riding a white Arabian thoroughbred — was taking place in the northern town of Tikrit, near where Mr. Hussein was born on April 28, 1937 in Owja village.

Eight killed in factional fighting in southern Somalia

NAIROBI (AFP) — At least eight people were killed and 11 were wounded in overnight fighting between rival Somali militias outside the southern port town of Kismayo, militia sources said Tuesday.

A militia commander loyal to Kismayo warlord Mohamed Said Hirsi "Morgan" said three of his fighters were killed and six wounded in the fighting, pitting Morgan's Marjanet clan against the Marehan group.

Speaking to AFP by telephone from Kismayo, the militia leader, who asked not to be named, said "many lives were lost" during fighting earlier on Monday. He could not cite an exact casualty figure, but other militia sources said at least five Marehan fighters were killed.

Informed sources in the

Somali capital told AFP that south Mogadishu warlord Hussein Mohamed Aided had sent pick-up trucks with mounted guns towards Kismayo but it was not immediately clear which side they would back.

Morgan is a long-time foe of Mr. Aided's, and the south Mogadishu strongman is likely to join the fray if fighting spreads to areas of the fertile Juba Valley controlled by his supporters, analysts said.

Mogadishu newspapers reported that 600 people fleeing the fighting had arrived in the capital.

Most of the displaced people arrived by boat and spoke of food shortages caused by growing insecurity around Kismayo.

Other sources in Nairobi said elders from the "neutral"

Absama clan had organised a meeting aimed at securing a ceasefire.

The elders called for an immediate truce and urged the warring factions to appoint 15 representatives each to a joint committee to monitor the ceasefire.

It was not immediately clear whether the rival groups would accept the call for peace. Each accused the other of provoking the fighting and was believed to be bringing in reinforcements from other Somali regions.

A reconciliation conference is planned in the central-south town of Baidoa next month to try to resolve the conflict in Somalia, which has been ruled by feuding warlords since the overthrow of the dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991.

Iraq offers to renew acceptance of Iranian accord

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Tuesday it is prepared to renew acceptance of its border with Iran in return for Tehran dropping demands for compensation from their eight-year war which Baghdad started.

"Iraq is ready to renew the 1975 Algiers accord under which the two countries' border passes through the Thawle, the deepest part of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, if Tehran gives up its claims to damages under U.N. Security Council Resolution 598," the weekly newspaper Al Shab said.

The paper, which is run by Uday, eldest son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, said

Iraq and Iran "agree to continue their contacts on advancing the normalisation process... especially after Tehran officially announces that it will give up war damages."

Resolution 598, adopted in 1987, ended the fighting, but despite the ceasefire, no peace treaty has been signed.

On the eve of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, Baghdad announced that the Algiers accord was null and void and demanded all of the Shatt Al Arab.

But at the beginning of the August 1990 to February 1991 Gulf crisis, Mr. Hussein announced that he accepted the Algiers

agreement in order to obtain Iranian support. The waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow into the vast Shatt Al Arab, which empties into the Gulf.

The waterway is vital for Iraq, which has no other major sea outlet.

Obstacles to an Iraqi-Iranian peace include prisoners of war. Iraqi aircraft sent to safety in Iran during the Gulf crisis, and each side's support for the other's opposition.

Iran refuses to return the aircraft, saying that would violate the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — Leo the Lion, King of Jungle
16:10 The Album Show
17:00 Heidi (ep. 3)
18:00 Acapulco Bay
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — E-M6
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Comedy — Campus Cops
20:00 Favourite Films
20:30 Special Programme on the 30th anniversary of Jordan Television
21:10 Drama — Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Mini-series: "Alcazar"
23:59 French varieties
01:30 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:23 Fajr
05:58 Sunrise/Duha
12:33 Dhuhur
16:12 Asr
19:18 Maghreb
20:43 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifelh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624540
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifelh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the

Department of Meteorology

Fine weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds northeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate, and seas calm.
Amman 10/24
Aqaba 16/32
Deserts 08/26
Jordan Valley 14/31
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 29
Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Sa'id Tawfiq 788285
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Afif Shukri 898863
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195
Firas pharmacy 5661912
Ferdows pharmacy 890280
Al Asema pharmacy 4637055
Al Salam pharmacy 4636730
Yacoub pharmacy 4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy
ZARQA:
Dr. Rauf Atallah 994424
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630541
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192-4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints 387467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 771311
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381

RJ Flight Information

53200
Queen Alia Int. Airpo. 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdi 56661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 836813, 856856
Luzumi 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4642816
Akhil Maternity 4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Mallat, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muassier Hospital 5667279
Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir 77511126
Army, Marka 59161115
Queen Alia Hospital 5602340/50
Amal Hospital 5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 099900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 17000
09999099

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 14153200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (52700) or 44-532500.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Larnaca (RJ)
09:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
15:35 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:00 Brussels (RJ)
18:05 Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

10:30 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:05 Rome (RJ)
19:30 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
20:00 Paris, Vienna (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
00:15 Beirut (RJ)
01:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Sanaa, Hudaib (TY)
11:30 Kuwait (KU)
12:30 Jeddah (SV)
14:10 Tunis (TU)
14:10 Bahrain (GF)
15:05 Vienna (OS)
16:30 Algiers (AH)
18:35 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
19:05 Frankfurt (LH)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)
23:45 Athens, Beirut (OA)
00:15 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

06:30 Larnaca (CY)
07:30 Paris (AF)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
09:20 London (BA)
11:30 Cairo (MS)
11:30 Ta'iz, Sanaa (TY)
12:45 Kuwait (KU)
14:00 Jeddah (SV)
15:00 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
15:10 Tunis (TU)
15:30 Vienna (OS)
17:30 Sharjah (AE)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
00:40 Damascus, Amsterdam (KU)
04:00 Beirut, Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)

08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
17:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW)
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Home

Fire causes nearly 100m in damage to tobacco factory

AMMAN (J.T.) — A major fire Monday gutted the warehouses of a tobacco plant in the Jordan district, south of Queen Alia International Airport, causing 100 million in damage.

The Jordan Tobacco Company (JTC) said it took more than a week to extinguish the fire, which destroyed products in storage as well as machinery and equipment.

The warehouses, which cover 800 square metres, sustained extensive damage, estimated at 100 million, according to the JTC.

The injured people, who were from among employees and were treated at a Jordan Hospital in Amman, are recovering.

Fares Nimr, manager of a firm that owns the warehouses, refused to comment on the incident and the JTC has completed its investigation.

The JTC and the Public Security Department have set up a joint team to investigate the cause of the fire, which was initially extinguished at 11 p.m. Monday.

Meanwhile, another fire is reported at a school in southern city of Irbid. A sign in Al-Karim newspaper said the fire broke out at a sports hall of the Zama School for Girls, causing damage but no injuries and police are investigating the incident.

What's going on

SCANDINAVIAN FILM WEEK

"Scandinavian film 'Whisper' by Soderstrom" and "Scandinavian film 'Benjamin' by Linn" are being shown at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

CONCERT

How joyful by the students of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

LECTURE

Media Frontiers and the Internet: A New World? by Prof. Dr. Yvonne Gilford, President of the American University in Washington, D.C., will be the guest speaker at the Jordan Royal Educational Society and project members in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Prof. Dr. Yvonne Gilford is a member of the Jordan Royal Educational Society and project members in the Gulf of Aqaba.

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Business attends graduation ceremony

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal, Regent, Sheikh Akhbar bin Sulhah, head of the Iraqi and Islamic Affairs Council in Jerusalem, took part in the funeral of the late Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Islamic Affairs, Hassan Tahboub.

Business attendees, graduation ceremony

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Fire causes nearly JD1m in damage to tobacco factory

AMMAN (J.T.) — A huge fire Monday gutted the warehouses of Al Itihad tobacco plant in the Jizeb district, south of Queen Alia International Airport, injuring 11 and causing extensive damage.

Civil Defence Department (CDD) officers on the scene said it took them two hours to extinguish the blaze, which destroyed products in storage as well as machinery and equipment.

The warehouses, which cover 800 square metres of land, sustained damages estimated at nearly JD1 million, according to the CDD.

The injured people suffered from smoke inhalation and were treated at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, the CDD said.

Fares Nimri, manager of the firm that owns the warehouses, refused to comment on the incident until the CDD has completed its investigations.

The CDD and the Public Security Department have set up a joint team to investigate the causes of the fire, which was finally extinguished at 7 a.m. Monday.

Meanwhile, another fire was reported at a school in the northern city of Irbid. A report in Al Ra'i newspaper said the fire broke out at the sports hall of the Tiberias School for Girls, causing damage but no injuries.

Irbid police are investigating the incident.



REGENT CONFERS AL HUSSEIN MEDAL UPON ORIENTALIST SCHOLAR: HRH Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talal, the Regent, confers the Al Hussein Medal for Distinguished Work of the First Order yesterday. Mrs. Schimmel, an expert on Arab and Islamic studies, was a professor at Harvard University, among other universities. With more than 80 publications to her name, Mrs. Schimmel has also edited and co-edited numerous books and encyclopaedias. She is the recipient of 15 other awards world-wide, including the 1995 Peace Prize of the German Book Traders Association. Her writings have contributed to a greater understanding of Islam in the West, and to advocating a synthesis of the Muslim religion with modernity. The Regent expressed his appreciation for her work, which he said is helping to build bridges of understanding and interaction between Arab and Islamic culture on the one hand and Western culture on the other (Photo by Boghos)



PRINCESS SARVATH HONOURS BLOOD DONORS: HRH Princess Sarvath El Hassan on Tuesday presents a gift of appreciation to a blood donor at a special ceremony held at the University of Jordan (UJ) to honour people who donated to the National Blood Bank. The ceremony was attended by Suleiman Ja'bari of the Ministry of Health, UJ President Fawzi Gbaraibeh and the president of the National Blood Bank, Janet Mirza. Dr. Mirza pointed out that His Majesty King Hussein was the first blood donor when the Blood Bank was established in 1957 (Photo by Boghos)

Regent stresses foreign policy based on mutual respect, non-interference

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talal, the Regent, Tuesday stressed that Jordan's foreign policy has always been based on mutual respect, non-interference in the internal affairs of and respect for the privacy of all Arab countries.

In an address to a symposium on Jordan's foreign policy held at Balqa Applied Sciences University, delivered on his behalf by Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai, Prince Hassan said: "Building a

democratic society in which each citizen lives a decent life is one of the major pillars of the Jordanian state."

The Crown Prince called for analysing and assessing the strengths and weaknesses imposed by Jordan's geographic location, geographical features and historical legacy as an entity based on the principles and legitimacy of the Great Arab Revolt.

The Regent noted that Jordan's commitment and adherence to international legitimacy resolutions has

won the Kingdom the respect of the world and the powers influencing it. He added that Jordan's political experience has enabled it to contribute to addressing complex humanitarian and political issues in the region.

Prince Hassan underlined Jordan's belief in constructive and meaningful dialogue on various issues, noting that it places special emphasis on far-reaching visions for building bridges of bilateral and multilateral relations.

Regarding Jordan's position vis-à-vis the Palestinian issue, the Crown Prince said Jordan fully supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil with its capital in Jerusalem.

The Crown Prince described this as an indispensable foundation for permanent security and peace in the region.

Farmers, agricultural exporters invited to Beirut conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Tuesday invited Jordanian farmers and exporters of agricultural products to take part in an exhibition and conference on Arab food and packing industries which will be held in Beirut from June 25-30.

The AMO said more than 150 firms in the food processing business and the packing industry are taking part in the event.

The firms will represent Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Tunisia, according to an AMO statement. The event is being organised by the Arab Union for Food Industries, the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the Federation of Arab Chambers of Industry, Agriculture and Trade.

The AMO said the exhibition will orient participants and visitors on the diverse Arab food industries and help boost inter-Arab trade.

The conference will also tackle issues and problems facing the packing and packaging industries of the Arab World as well as the requirements for high quality products and prospects for stimulating inter-Arab exchanges of agricultural products.

Princess Basma delivers address on challenges facing Jordanian women

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Princess Basma on Tuesday addressed the general meeting of the U.N. Women's Guild (UNWG) on the "crucial issues" facing Jordanian women as the Kingdom enters the next millennium.

"The challenges we face may be particular to our nation and region, but they are also determined by global forces and trends," Princess Basma said. "If we turn a blind eye and ignore the trends, our challenges may well turn into major obstacles that could seriously hinder the advancement of Jordanian women in the years to come."

The Princess spoke on the need to prepare women for these challenges, including preparing them to compete in the job market and breaking down gender barriers in society.

"One of our major challenges will be to fully equip women to meet... new market demands. At the same time, women will also need to be better skilled to adapt to rapid changes in policies, which are being shaped more and more by the dynamics of the market."

"This issue is linked to the quality of education that women receive. As proud

as we are of the achievements of our educational system, we still have to address whether or not we will step into the new millennium without having made serious efforts to remove all gender discrimination in this system," she added.

Princess Basma touched upon the need for women to expand beyond traditional areas of employment and move into the "strategic" professions of the next century.

"Although progress has been made in female enrolment at all educational levels, one cannot help but wonder why women tend to opt for a restricted range of specialisations at university level. If science and technology are amongst the most strategic areas of power for the future, Jordanian women's presence in such fields should be encouraged and increased to allow them to prepare for the next century," according to the Princess.

She also urged women to begin preparing for the next parliamentary elections and working to increase their political presence, even if the demand that a "proportion of the Lower House seats be reserved for

women... is granted or not."

Finally, the Princess asked the women's movement in the Kingdom to work together toward their common cause. "While women's movements all over the world have had their different structures and priorities, the most successful ones are those who examined and transformed their own internal weaknesses. In order to maximise the impact of their work, the women's movement in Jordan should focus on a better coordination of their efforts. There are times when all the organisations have rallied together for a common cause, and made their impact felt," she stated.

The UNWG is a non-profit, non-political organisation. It was established in Jordan in 1993 to assist needy women and children throughout Jordan through fund-raising activities and to serve as a mutual bond and a forum for all women within the United Nations family.

This is the second time that Princess Basma has attended the annual UNWG meeting as guest speaker. The first time was in November 1995.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent delegates Salhab to attend Tahboub funeral

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for HRH Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talal, the Regent, Sheikh Abdul Azzam Salhab, head of the Awwaf and Islamic Affairs Council in Jerusalem, took part in the funeral of the late Palestinian Minister of Awwaf and Islamic Affairs Hassan Tahboub.

Princess attends graduation ceremony

ALJOUN (Petra) — HRH

Princess Alia Al Faisal on Tuesday attended the graduation ceremony of students who took part in Islamic science educational courses. The ceremony was organised by Umm Al Qura School in Ras Munif.

RJ to hold sales, marketing conference next week

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian will hold a conference next Sunday on sales and marketing with the participation of 37 regional general

managers of offices from around the world. The conference will touch upon issues related to managing aviation companies.

Cabinet approves official appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday approved the appointment of Marzouq Hadid as director general of the Development and Employment Fund and Ali Qaba'a as director general of the National Library. The Cabinet accepted the resignation of Osama Miqdadi, former director of the library

Ukrainian defence minister leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Ukrainian Defence Minister Alexander Kozomok left Amman on Tuesday after concluding a three-day visit to the Kingdom. Mr. Kozomok held talks with acting Prime Minister Abdul-

Coping with 'chaos and boredom' — play tackles conflict between past, present

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A lack of emphasis on plot is none to the detriment of "The Memory of Three Boxes," a Woody Allen-esque production whose theme rests on what a "box" might represent to many.

It is an intimate and dialogue-driven play in which three personalities — musician Nadim (Mohaseb Aref), his journalist wife Salma (Najwa Kandakji) and their friend, a history professor named Napoleon (Zuhair Hassan) — hash out their past together in their new, but run-down basement flat.

Their history together — and their future — is overshadowed by a fourth character, Nasser, whose presence is profound, but whom we never see, and it seems as though the three have little in common, save for the absent Nasser and a thread of passionately exhibited madness that runs through all of three.

It seems apparent to all present, except for Salma, Nadim and Napoleon, that the three have reached a turning point in their mediocre lives, acted out on the stage of Al Mashimi Theatre in Jabal Weibdeh in an intensely dramatic one-and-a-half hour play.

So jaded are the three characters that they fail to recognise their own outbursts of humour and minor romantic interludes that interrupt the "s*** and p***" of the daily grind as the spice of life.

wanted to show people doing something constructive with that [environment]."

So intense are characters' conversations, debates and quar-

rels and so minimal is their interaction with the audience, that play-goers are made to feel like peeping-toms whenever Salma bursts into tears of rage over an internal personal conflict or whenever the three characters viciously taunt one another about their pasts in a way that only lifelong friends can.

Three crates, which constitute the majority of the sparse stage props, are the vessels of our characters' frustrations. In them are sheets of music whose lyrics Nadim has long forgotten, photos of friends long lost and Salma's first journalistic ventures. That these things are packed away and sitting in the middle of a rapidly-flooding lounge floor are also symbol of consternation with the instabil-

ity of their lives.

The script, an original written at first in English by Ms. Hussein, was translated into Arabic and "whittled down," she said, by Ms. Darwazah and co-creator Nasser Omar.

Ms. Darwazah described the script as "a compilation and exchange of our own dinner conversations and what we have learned about our generation's fears and hopes."

"It's something we've always wanted to say about the conflict between our memories [of the Arab World] and our present situation, and the resulting frustration," she said. "It's an experimentation with the script by the actors."

"I started by thinking of what the Arab World is coming to," explained Ms. Hussein. "And I wanted to examine the psychology of our lives — we're all a bunch of confused 30-somethings."

Since the "Three Boxes" debut at the Amman Theatre Festival earlier this month, people have been searching for a political message, she added, but their simply isn't one.

"It's just a play about how we live," she maintained.

"You can draw your own conclusions," she said, from the inconclusive climax that is as unpredictable as life itself.

"The Memory of Three Boxes" will run until Sunday and is currently sponsored by the Greater Amman Municipality.

Cabinet forms delegation to discuss land lease in Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday formed a delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture to travel to Sudan for discussions on the implementation of an agreement on agricultural investment.

The talks, scheduled to be held from May 1-18, concern an area of land that the Sudanese government has agreed to lease to Jordan to be developed for agricultural purposes.

The delegation will hold talks with the director general of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development on a feasibility study on the project and finalise a plan for starting the development process.

During a regular session chaired by Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, the Council gave its consent to the Ministry of Agriculture's participation in an annual meeting by the International Epidemiological Organisation due to be held in Paris from May 25-29.

Jordan is a member of this organisation, which is concerned with fighting epidemics and enacting legislation organising international livestock and livestock products trading. At the coming meeting, HRH Princess Alia will be the guest of honour in view of her distinguished efforts in this field.

The Council formed a delegation led by Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha to

attend the 24th general assembly meeting of the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Lands, due to be held May 11-May 13 in Damascus.

Several subjects pertaining to water security in the Arab World and the implementation of an international agreement on combating desertification will be on the agenda.

The Council decided to send a delegation led by Mr. Khreisha to Tehran to hold talks with his Iranian counterpart on promoting agricultural cooperation between Iran and Jordan.

The two sides will also discuss the conclusion of an agricultural agreement and Jordan's exports of fertilisers to Iranian markets.

'Transcontinental' jewellery, fashion show opens today

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — East will meet West in "Grace and Style," a transcontinental array of haute couture and jewellery fashions by renowned clothes designer Razwan Beyg and jeweller Khalil Al Sayegh, which opens today in Amman.

Both designers are Pakistani and have kept to the "global village" philosophy, with their work portraying a modern look to be worn by any woman in the world while retaining the special mystery of the East.

"To me fashion is about being current. It's a reflection of signs of the times. It is moving towards a global fashion vocabulary where there is going to be homogenisation of fashion, but within aspects of a global culture," Mr. Beyg told the Jordan Times during dress rehearsal on Tuesday.

This is the second time Mr. Beyg's work is shown in Jordan. In 1992, this architect-turned-designer captured Jordanians' attention with his simple yet rich work.

This event was organised by the Pakistani Women's Association to raise funds for the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA).

chaired by HRH Princess Sarvath El Hassan. Proceeds of the two-day event will go to the YMWA's centre for special education and workshop for the mentally handicapped.

The display features a collection of bustiers and jackets intricately embroidered in silver and gold threads. These are belted by simple straight cut trousers or flowing skirts portraying an overall aura of elegance and simplicity.

"I think my outfits translate into classics; something you can wear anytime and every time," said Mr. Beyg.

Lady Diana, the late Princess of Wales, wore his designs.

The Nur jewellery collection also on exhibit has been especially hand-crafted for this occasion by Khalil Al Sayegh, whose fine work ranges from the very elaborate to the very simple and incorporates precious to semi-precious stones.

His necklaces, bracelets, rings and watches make use of diamonds, pearls, rubies and topaz, as he tries to combine modern with traditional designs to make his jewellery universal yet keeping an identity.

His work is sold across the globe, including Belgium, Italy and the United Arab Emirates.

what's going on

SCANDINAVIAN FILM WEEK

* Norwegian film "Whitbear King Valer" and Icelandic film "Benjamin Dove" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively.

FILMS

* Classical film "El Verduco" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday, April 30, at 5:00 p.m.

* "The Lost World" at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday, April 30, at 5:00 p.m.

* German film "Summer in the City" (with subtitles in English at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman, at 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT

* Piano recital by the students of Lin Ewan at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

MEDIA FORUM AND LECTURE

* Media Forum series on "Tourism and the Environment: Promoting and Protecting Jordan's Natural Wonders" (in Arabic) at the American Center, Abdoun at 5:00 p.m. (Panelists are Khalid Irani, director general of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Leen Fakhr, president of the Friends of Archaeology, and Mingshi Madyar, board member of the Jordan Royal Ecological Diving Society and project manager of the Sustainable Tourism Project in the Gulf of Aqaba).

* Cassius-Affairs, The Teachers of Borges (in Spanish) by Javier Garcia at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

Tibetans renew hunger strike, doctors say protester dying

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Tibetan exiles Tuesday defiantly renewed a hunger strike broken up by Indian police as doctors gave up hope of reviving another protester who set himself on fire in protest at the crackdown.

"Our hunger strike has begun again," a Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) spokesman announced from an old observatory in New Delhi, where the almost 50-day fast against Chinese rule of Tibet was stopped by police Monday.

The 50-year-old Tibetan who set himself on fire when police forcibly moved the hunger strikers to hospital was close to death, doctors said.

Doctors treating Thupten Ngodub said the Tibetan with 100 per cent burns had almost no chance of surviving.

"The chances are very poor," said Ved Bhushan, chief of the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital where the Tibetan is being treated.

Another physician said: "His chances of survival are remote despite all the

life support systems we have put him on... We are also losing hope."

The doctor said Mr. Ngodub, a former soldier of an Tibetan army of the Indian army, was steadily weakening.

The hospital was flooded with telephone calls from well-wishers from across the world.

TYC spokesman Choekyong Wangchuk said the renewed hunger strike by six Tibetans, each representing one million of Tibet's six million people, began at one minute past midnight Tuesday (1831 GMT Monday). Six other Tibetans had fasted since March 10 before being forcibly taken to hospital Sunday and Monday.

"We will not give up until our demands are met," he said of their campaign to end Chinese rule of Tibet.

The TYC said hundreds of Tibetans were ready to take the place of the six currently on a fast.

"If they are taken away then another six will replace them... The police should know that it is a

fruitful exercise," said Mr. Wangchuk, one of the top leaders of the TYC.

A militant section of the TYC, which has thousands of members, has often differed over anti-Chinese strategy with Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. The section says it does not believe in absolute non-violence.

Mr. Wangchuk said some of the hunger strikers taken to hospital promised they would renew their fast when they were released.

"...They are determined to restart their fast," he said.

Nobel laureate, the Dalai Lama, who had visited the hunger strikers earlier, was expected in Delhi later Tuesday and Mr. Wangchuk said he may visit Mr. Ngodub in hospital.

The police have restricted visitors to the ward where Mr. Ngodub is being treated under heavy guard.

Police fear Tibetan protests could swell with similar suicide attempts if Mr. Ngodub dies.

"Ngodub is the first Tibetan to do an act like this, and in case he dies,

then he would be revered by coming generations of Tibetans," Mr. Wangchuk said.

"There will be a grand funeral and people from everywhere will come."

Tuesday the police withdrew from the scene of the hunger strike to prevent a confrontation, officials said.

India has described Mr. Ngodub's self-immolation as "unfortunate and regrettable" but declined to explain why the protest was broken up during the visit of the Chinese army chief, General Fu Quanyou, who arrived Sunday.

The protesters claimed the authorities forced them to abandon the strike to appease Beijing during Fu's visit, the first to India by a Chinese army chief.

Chinese troops marched into Tibet in 1951. More than 100,000 Tibetan refugees live in India.

The Dalai Lama has lived in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala since fleeing his homeland in 1959 following a failed anti-China uprising.



Jampa Kalsang, one of the five Tibetans on a fast-unto-death, counts prayer beads in a makeshift tent in a New Delhi park. The five Tibetans have replaced the six activists who were on a hunger strike since March 10 but were forcibly moved to a hospital by police on April 27 (Reuters photo)

Little doubt Belgian PM will survive vote

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium's government should easily survive three opposition-inspired no-confidence votes Tuesday stemming from the brief escape from custody last week of alleged child killer Marc Dutroux, political analysts said.

None of the four parties in the centre-left coalition of Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene were expected to break ranks.

The session in parliament is due to start at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) with a debate and votes on the opposition motions calling on the government to quit.

Mr. Dehaene is expected to announce that he will address flaws in the police and justice systems brought to light after Dutroux's abortive three-hour bid for freedom last Thursday.

Dutroux, who is being held in connection with the abduction, rape and murder of four young girls and the kidnapping and attempted starvation of two others, is due to stand trial late this year.

Mr. Dehaene was also expected to call for a swift investigation into the escape attempt.

More controversially, the government would ask top police chiefs and magistrates to assume responsibility for the poor guarding of Dutroux and step aside voluntarily.

Politicians have expressed concern that sacking prominent law and order figures might backfire since they might feel they were being treated unfairly and start proce-

dures to be reinstated, which they might conceivably win.

Such battles over legal niceties would also undermine the momentum Mr. Dehaene created in the wake of the escape.

Mr. Debaene moved swiftly, convincing two top ministers to take the rap Thursday, replacing them Friday and pledging more moves within a week's time.

"Such a crisis strategy was absolutely necessary to keep the government in place and save Belgium's image," the daily newspaper De Standaard said in an editorial Tuesday.

Popular calls for heads to roll after the post-escape resignations of the justice and the home affairs ministers were being aimed at a national police chief and top magistrates.

Fingers were pointed at the gendarmerie, a police force fighting national crime and charged with tasks ranging from the protection of security vans to transporting criminals.

The gendarmerie, however, said it was waiting for the outcome of the investigation into Dutroux's escape from custody while he was reviewing case notes in a court building, guarded by only two gendarmes.

They had allowed themselves to be distracted by the accused, who had seized a gun before bolting from the building.

After a nationwide alert and the closing of all borders, Dutroux was recaptured a few kilometres away.

Hailstorms kill 24 in China

BEIJING (AFP) — Violent hailstorms in China have killed 24 people and left millions of dollars worth of damage, reports said Tuesday.

In southwestern Sichuan province three people were killed and 45 injured as hailstones of up to 18 centimetres hammered 31 counties, demolishing homes, destroying crops, and pulling down telephone poles, Xinhua news agency said.

The storms continued from April 22 to 24, it said. In nearby Jiangxi province a similar disaster killed 12 people and also wrecked homes and crops, while in neighbouring Hunan province a massive hailstorm killed nine and forced schools and businesses to close and disrupted transport and telecommunications.

During the Sichuan storm pellets as heavy as one kilogramme lodged themselves in the ground to a depth of 30 centimetres. The storm completely destroyed 9,400 homes and damaged other 32,700, Xinhua said.

The hail also caused losses worth 190 million yuan (\$22.9 million) from destruction wreaked on telecommunications, electric power and transportation facilities.

As a result of the storm, more than 100,000 households in Sichuan face difficulties finding enough water and grain. Local governments have dispatched relief supplies and crop assistance to farmers, Xinhua said.

France to award highest honour to Australian veterans

SYDNEY (AFP) — All living Australian World War I veterans who fought on French soil will be given France's highest decoration, the Legion of Honour, Veterans' Affairs Minister Jean-Pierre Masseret said Tuesday.

The award, expected to be bestowed on about 80 veterans, is part of France's plan to honour up to 1,800 men from the 14 nations who sent troops to defend France.

Australia and New Zealand "paid a heavy tribute during the 1914-1918 war with numerous dead and a great many wounded as a percentage of ... the population who lived at the time," Mr. Masseret told reporters here.

"We are so grateful for what these countries have done to help France in difficult times," he said, after a tour of the South Pacific.

Mr. Masseret's Australian counterpart Bruce Scott warmly welcomed the move which came soon after the April 25 national day of remembrance here.

"With Anzac Day fresh in our minds, this is a marvellous gesture by the French government towards our surviving World War I veterans who fought in France," he said in a statement.

Mr. Masseret appealed to Australians to help locate all the ageing ex-servicemen who would qualify for the medal.

"It must be done as quickly as possible because these men are no longer young," he said.

"I will ensure that Monsieur Masseret is given every assistance in the search to identify Australia's surviving veterans so they can receive the honour later this year," Mr. Scott said.

The sacrifice made by thousands of young Australians on French soil had created a special bond between the two countries, Mr. Scott said.

The announcement Tuesday also marked the 80th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice which ended World War I.

U.N. rights chief prods Guatemala over bishop's murder

GENEVA (AFP) — U.N. rights chief Mary Robinson Tuesday condemned the murder of Guatemalan Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Gerardi and urged the government to bring those responsible to justice.

Gerardi, 75, was found beaten to death Monday in a church near the presidential palace in Guatemala City.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights "condemns in the strongest terms" the assassination of Gerardi, an outspoken human rights activist, a statement issued here said.

"A man driven by his search of justice and reconciliation, his death saddens all those who share his ideals in Guatemala and in the world," Ms. Robinson demanded.

that the Guatemalan government make all efforts "to bring to justice those responsible for this heinous crime."

The government Monday set up a commission of enquiry while the Catholic church gave it 72 hours to shed light on the murder.

Observers said the killing of Gerardi may have been in retaliation for a report he wrote on human rights abuses and the human cost of Guatemala's 36-year-long civil war.

The war ended with a peace pact signed by the rightist government and leftist rebels in December 1996.

The murder happened as Gerardi stepped out of a car following a family dinner, said Mario Orantes, a priest who discovered the body.

4 Serbs killed in Kosovo fighting

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — Four Serbs, apparently members of the security forces, were killed and two wounded in fighting with armed Albanians in the troubled Kosovo province, a local daily paper reported Tuesday.

Yugoslav army headquarters for the province said Monday that three Albanians were killed and four wounded in the same clash, which occurred the previous night west of the town of Decani, situated near the border with Albania.

It did not say if there were any casualties among their soldiers.

The Kosovo Albanian daily

Koha Ditore identified the two injured Serbs as Dragan Mijakovic and Zlatko Djordjevic, but said only that they were members of the "Serb forces" without stating if they were soldiers or policemen.

Clashes erupted again last week between the Yugoslav army and Kosovo Albanians in the western part of the province bordering Albania.

At least 26 ethnic Albanians were reported killed as they tried to infiltrate into Kosovo from Albania.

Kosovo's ethnic Albanians make up 90 per cent of the province's two million people and are campaigning for independence from Belgrade.

Shark kills South African woman off Mozambique coast

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A shark attacked and killed a South African tourist in Mozambique as she tried to tow a rubber dinghy back to shore, a newspaper said Tuesday.

The Afrikaans daily, Die Beeld, said Wilma von Molendoff and her fiancé, Joban Pretorius, were towing the boat to shore Sunday after the motor cut out when von Molendoff was

attacked by a three-metre shark.

The shark, of an unknown species, bit her chest and stomach and severed her left arm before Pretorius could swim to her rescue.

He punched the shark on the snout to chase it away.

Von Molendoff bled to death in the dinghy in a remote part of the coast near Bilene, some 180 km north of the capital Maputo.

Japanese justice minister questions comfort women ruling

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Justice Minister Kokichi Shimoinaba said Tuesday he was "stunned" by a court decision ordering Tokyo to compensate wartime sex slaves from South Korea.

"I was stunned by the ruling," Mr. Shimoinaba told a news conference.

Yamaguchi District Court in western Japan Monday ordered the government to pay 300,000 yen (\$2,280) each to three of 10 South Korean plaintiffs who had demanded a total of 564 million yen and an official apology.

Presiding judge Hideaki Chikashita said the government and lawmakers failed to establish a law to compensate wartime sex slaves. This amounted to constitutional negligence, he ruled, and violated the women's human rights.

But Mr. Shimoinaba said he believed lawmakers had a right not to draw up the law, a position he said was supported by the Supreme Court here in 1985.

"I think the decision would be problematic in relation with the Supreme Court verdict," Mr. Shimoinaba said. "I think the judge must know the Supreme Court ruling but his decision was beyond that."

Asked if he planned to appeal to a higher court, Mr. Shimoinaba said: "I will make up my mind after discussing the issue

with ministries concerned."

Monday's ruling was the first verdict by a Japanese court on the wartime government's role in forcing women from occupied Asia to serve in front-line brothels as "comfort women."

Japan has so far refused an official apology or state compensation to the women, offering only privately-raised funds. This has angered neighbours including China, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Historians say some 200,000 young women, mostly from Korea, but also from China, the Philippines and Indonesia — where some Dutch girls were also press-ganged — served in Japanese army brothels.

Japanese newspapers were divided over the ruling.

"Needless to say, the nation is responsible for compensating the victims," the Tokyo Shimbun said.

"We can read the judges' fidelity to social justice and public morality from the ruling."

The Asahi Shimbun said: "The verdict that clarified the nation's responsibility for compensation was a landmark. Questions will now move to how far the government, parliament, the nation can assume the responsibility."

But some conservative

dailies lashed the ruling.

"Nothing has been verified about allegations that they were forcefully taken to Japanese facilities," the Sankei Shimbun said. "The word, comfort women, or the comfort women system itself did not exist at that time."

The conservative newspaper said Japan's wartime compensation for neighbouring countries had already been settled, except for North Korea and Taiwan. "It is not clear why Japan's compensation is needed right now," the daily said.

Japan occupied the Korean Peninsula from 1910 and 1945 and bitter memories of the period are often an explosive irritant in ties.

Until a few years ago, most of the former sex-slaves would not speak out for shame about their past but in the 1990s the clamour for compensation has grown.

Tokyo's response has been to set up a private, non-government, Asian Women's Fund for the victims, most of whom are elderly. Only seven South Korean comfort women have accepted payments.

The South Korean government last week dropped claims for compensation from Japan for women forced to serve as sex slaves but said it would press demands that Tokyo apologise officially.

Bus kills 6 school children, injures 17 in India town

NEW DELHI (AFP) — At least six children on their way to school were killed and 17 others injured Tuesday when a speeding bus ran over their trishaws in a northern Indian town, the Press Trust of India said.

The passenger bus trying to save a cyclist swerved and ran over two trishaws carrying the children to a junior-grade school in the city of Faruqabad, it said.

Six children died instantly, the news agency said adding 17 were injured, seven of them seriously.

Residents protesting the gruesome accident torched the bus and attacked other vehicles with rocks, injuring an unspecified number of motorists.

City administrator Amrit Abhijit said the protesters also blocked traffic on highways and put barricades on tracks disrupting train services in the region.

The protesters also fought with the policemen when they tried to lift the blockades, the news agency said.

Artificial cornea developed in Australia gives new hope to blind

PERTH, Australia (AFP) — An artificial cornea developed by Australian scientists gives new hope to millions of blind people, one of the world's leading eye surgeons said here Tuesday.

Professor Ian Constable, director of the Perth-based Lions Eye Institute, described the device as "an extraordinary scientific breakthrough" unveiling the world's first flexible synthetic cornea — the product of more than seven years' research at the institute.

The device is made from soft plastic and has a high water content, similar to a contact lens, and replaces the eyeball's tough, transparent outer covering.

Inserted during surgery, it is expected to cost about 3,000 Australian dollars (\$1,950) when it becomes widely available in about three years.

"More than 10 million

people suffer corneal scarring and blindness, and this development has the potential to relieve great human suffering," he said.

One of the first recipients of the artificial cornea was 79-year-old Perth retired public servant, Patrick Critchison, who had his surgery two months ago.

He told reporters: "I am delighted with the result. I have been blind in my right eye for more than seven years. I now have some sight in the eye, which came very soon after the operation. I am certain the sight will improve further in time."

Medical researchers have been trying for more than 200 years to produce an artificial cornea, using glass, perspex, Teflon, silicone, titanium and even human teeth. But none was a complete success.

Professor Constable,

foundation professor of ophthalmology at the University of Western Australia, said the artificial cornea closely resembled a human cornea and was easy to implant.

"Previous attempts around the world to develop an artificial cornea have concentrated on rigid objects," he said.

"Sometimes, they have been inserted through a patient's closed eyelids to produce a 'window'. Unfortunately, most have not succeeded in returning sight for any length of time."

The professor said the new cornea was the result of extended research by Romanian-born polymer chemist Traian Chirila and a team of scientists.

"They have come up with this smooth flexible lens which the eye will accept as an implant. In appearance, it

is quite similar to a soft contact lens, but it has a porous skirt around its edge.

"This is spongy material which is bio-compatible, allowing the eye's own tissue to grow into it."

Unlike a contact lens, the cornea is implanted in an operation similar to a corneal transplant, replacing the damaged cornea.

"Because the skin and the lens are made from the same material, there is no problematic joint between the optical part of the artificial cornea and the skirt."

"This greatly reduces the risk of serious complications such as infection, inflammation, extrusion, extensive scarring and glaucoma."

The first operations using the new cornea were performed by the institute's surgeons, Dr. Geoffrey Crawford and Dr. Celia Hicks, the professor said.

China gives cool reception to Japan-U.S. defence moves

BEIJING (AFP) — China Tuesday gave a cool reception to Japan's signing of a defence cooperation pact with the United States beyond Japanese territory.

"We have noticed that the Japanese side has made amendments to its laws in order to meet Japan's defence guidelines," a Chinese ministry spokesman said.

He said Japan had repeatedly assured Beijing the pact would not threaten other countries because they were based simply on geography.

"But this is against the nature of the situation," the spokesman said.

"We hope that the Japanese government will be prudent on this issue, respect its promises in the Sino-Japanese joint communique on the problem of Taiwan and do nothing to harm neighbouring countries."

A Japanese cabinet official admitted China last August by admitting in a television interview that the guidelines call for Japan to provide logistical support to U.S. military operations in fighting between China and Taiwan.

Tokyo has carefully controlled its public statements since, insisting that the guidelines were no threat to neighbouring countries.

While the guidelines have been agreed, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Obuchi earlier in the month signed an agreement on mutual logistics support pertaining to them.

The Tokyo government at the same time approved bills to legalise such support, including the supply of fuel and the transport of soldiers, for U.S. forces "areas surrounding Japan" when the country's peace and security is threatened.

The bills are unlikely to pass before the current session of parliament ends July due to objections from the LDP's parliament opposition.

They may run foul of Japan's post-World War II constitution, which bans it from resorting to force to settle international disputes.

China considers Taiwan a part of its territory and strongly opposes any outside interference in its "unification" with the mainland.

Beijing has vowed to attempt to declare independence but the United States opposes such moves.

In early 1996 it deployed 10 aircraft carrier groups to the Taiwan Strait in response to a series of escalating military exercises conducted by China near the island's first presidential poll.

China's military is trying to improve its military equipment and technology, a spokesman said.

Mr. Obuchi said the pact was a milestone in the Sino-Japanese relationship.

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China gives cool reception to Japan-U.S. defence moves

BEIJING (AFP) — China Tuesday gave a cool reception to Japan's signing of an accord which expands defence cooperation with the United States beyond Japanese territory.

"We have noticed that the Japanese side has made amendments to its laws in order to meet Japan-U.S. defence guidelines," foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao told reporters.

He said Japan had repeatedly assured Beijing the guidelines were not aimed at any third country and would not threaten other countries because they "are not based simply on geography."

"But this is against the nature of the situation," the spokesman said.

"We hope that the Japanese government will be prudent on this issue, respect its promises in the (Sino-Japanese) joint communiqué on the problem of Taiwan and do nothing to worry neighbouring countries."

A Japanese cabinet official infuriated China last August by admitting in a television interview that the guidelines call for Japan to provide logistical support in the event of U.S. military involvement in fighting between China and Taiwan.

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They may run foul of Japan's pacifist post-World War II constitution, which bans it from resorting to arms to settle international disputes.

China considers Taiwan a part of its territory and strongly opposes any outside interference in its "reunification" with the mainland.

Beijing has vowed to retake the island by force if it attempts to declare independence but the United States opposes such military means.

In early 1996 it deployed two aircraft carrier groups to the Taiwan Strait in response to a series of threatening military exercises conducted by China before the island's first direct presidential poll.



Sri Lankan police keep guard after a parcel bomb exploded at the telecommunications exchange building in the southern town of Kalutara (AFP photo)

S. Korea proposes delivery of third food-aid batch

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's Red Cross Tuesday sent a telephone message to its northern counterpart about the method of delivery for the third batch of food aid to famine-stricken North Korea.

A statement from the Red Cross said the message, sent via its liaison office on the heavily militarised border, outlined two methods of delivering 3,000 tonnes of corn, 3,000 tonnes of wheat flour, 1,000 tonnes of fertiliser, 32 tonnes of powder milk and 15.74 tonnes of baby food.

The corn would be delivered to Namyang in North Korea from China by freight car from May 4 to 9, it said.

The rest of the food aid would be shipped on a South Korean freighter, Sun Gerbera, leaving Incheon port on May 2 and arriving in North Korea's Nampo port on May 3, it said.

The message, sent by South Korea Red Cross President Chung Won-Shik, asked that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies be allowed to monitor the food distribution in at least one or two areas.

Monday, the U.N. World Food Programme said it would reduce its international food aid appeal for North Korea by up to 13 per cent if it could get complete access to the countryside to monitor distribution.

South Korea and aid groups are worried that food intended for malnourished families could be diverted to North Korea's 1.1 million-strong armed forces.

South Korea's Red Cross has agreed to deliver about nine billion won (\$6.60 million) worth of food aid to North Korea until mid-May.

It said its monitors have so far gained access to only one of the 50 targeted counties in North Korea to monitor distribution.

A South Korean ship Sunday delivered 3,000 tonnes of flour, 50,000 litres of edible oil, five tonnes of seed potatoes and 200 tonnes of fertiliser to complete the second batch of food aid to the north.

The first delivery — 100,000 litres of vegetable oil, 3,000 tonnes of flour, 58 tonnes of rice and 26,000 pairs of socks — was made on April 15 and 16.

India says ready to talk to Kashmiri groups

JAMMU, India (R) — India's new government is ready to hold talks with Kashmiri groups to end the eight-year-old insurgency in the Himalayan region, Defence Minister George Fernandes said.

More than a dozen militant groups are fighting Indian rule in Kashmir in a rebellion that has left an estimated 25,000 people dead since 1990.

"Our doors are open, we can talk to anyone," Mr. Fernandes told reporters late Monday in Udhampur, some 65 km from Jammu, the strife-torn state's winter capital. While India, which controls two-thirds of Kashmir, says that the Himalayan region is an integral part of the country and this position is non-negotiable, Kashmiri

separatist groups are fighting for either independence or merger with Pakistan.

"I have met several leaders in Delhi and will be meeting more people in Srinagar," the defence minister, who took office last month as part of a Hindu-nationalist led coalition government said. But he declined to elaborate.

Separately, more security forces will be deployed in parts of Jammu and Kashmir where violence has flared up, Mr. Fernandes said.

"I will be talking to (the) chief minister about additional troops." Village defence committees will be also strengthened, he said.

Separatist guerrillas earlier this month shot dead 29 people in Dhakikot, about 185 km from Jammu, triggering panic migration from the area.

Government mulls shoot on sight law to end Dhaka campus violence

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh police could get tough new powers to shoot on sight any armed person in a bid to end campus violence, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed said Tuesday as new clashes left 30 injured.

Police used tear gas and batons to disperse rival political student fronts when they clashed in the southeastern Chinagong University, security sources said.

"We want to end violence on the campus sincerely and seek your (opposition) support in this regard," she told the parliament during prime minister's question time.

"The government is even ready to make stringent

laws to nab terrorists. We are ready to instruct the police to shoot on sight any person with arms in the campus, provided we get the opposition's cooperation," Sheikh Hasina said, replying to a question on the current campus situation.

"The government is ready to sit across the table with the opposition parties in the light of President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad's suggestion to ban student politics."

Sheikh Hasina said her ruling Awami League had suspended the activities of its student front in 1992 when it was in the opposition, but said the then Bangladesh Nationalist

Party (BNP) government had remained "silent."

President Shahabuddin Ahmed since coming to office in 1996 has repeatedly called on politicians to rethink student politics, which he believes should reflect local and not national concerns.

"If this situation continues, the future of the whole nation will plunge into total darkness," he warned last week.

The violence in Chinagong campus erupted after Islamist Chitra Shibir, the student wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party, staged a march amid a strike called by ruling Awami League's student front the Bangladesh Chitra

League (BCL).

Police said 30 people, including a policeman, were injured during the clashes in which weapons were used by both sides.

Tuesday, Dhaka University exams were postponed following a strike and clashes between rival groups, but normal classes were held, officials said.

"We have postponed tests until Thursday to avoid any fresh problems, but classes are being held as per schedule," a university official said.

Jatiyatabadi Chitra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the opposition BNP, called a strike to protest the alleged eviction of activists

from universities dormitories by their rivals.

There was a gunbattle between the two groups last week in which one Bangladesh Chitra League leader killed.

The JCD is demanding the release of 70 activists, including its president Shahabuddin Chowdhury Anne, detained Sunday during a protest march.

Police said Chowdhury Anne was accused in the killing of Parthapratim Acharya in the gunbattle.

The death came after JCD activists reportedly teased a girl seeking to enrol in the university and was also linked to attempts by rival factions to control the dormitories.

68 mutilated Sierra Leoneans in Freetown hospital

FREETOWN (AFP) — Doctors in Freetown said Tuesday they had worked around the clock to save the lives of some 68 civilians with crude amputations and other injuries carried out by supporters of the ousted junta.

The attacks, which left 23 people, including children, missing hands or feet and others suffering from bayonet, machete or gunshot wounds, took place at the weekend in the diamond-rich Kono district in the east of the country, doctors at the Connaught hospital said.

"We have been able to take several of them out of danger but we are still keeping a close eye on them," one nurse said.

"It is a gruesome sight. How could any human being be so heartless as to inflict such wounds on its own kind and kin?" said staff nurse Nancy Boima, on the edge of tears.

"I doubt whether it is worth living after this," said one woman among the patients.

The patients were among some 3,000 civilians rescued at the weekend by ECOMOG, the Nigerian-led intervention force which toppled the junta from the capital in mid-February, a source in the force told AFP.

One witness said ECOMOG chased out junta forces from four towns around Koidu, 240 kilometres east of Freetown in the Kono District — Bumpah, Jajama Sewafe, Tumbudu and Motema.

"I was in Tumbudu when the rebels entered my house, shot my son at close range and then raped me and chopped off my right hand," said Finda James, another patient.

"The cocaine-drugged rebels sprayed inflammable liquid on my parents' house and told everyone not to stay inside the burning house. I was however able to escape and took refuge with advancing ECOMOG forces," said 16-year-old schoolgirl Tonia Capio, recounting her experience in Bumpah Town.

"I pray that all those

responsible for these atrocities are caught and killed on the spot. This will be retributive justice," she said.

The junta forces, who are supported by rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), burnt down hundreds of houses in Jajama Sewafe, according to a traditional leader from the town.

Meanwhile, local journalists in Kenema, in the southeast, said militia groups working with ECOMOG scored "a huge success" over the weekend when they ousted junta supporters from three villages.

Ambushes in the villages of Panguma, Blama and Gerihun caused junta forces there to retreat after an hour-long battle, the reporters said.

"The rebels lost about 15 of their men and scores were also badly wounded," one journalist reported.

Reports from Bo, Sierra Leone's second largest city, 170 kilometres east of the capital, said militia groups had secured a key road to the north which had been in rebel hands for the past four years.

"The route has been a strategic one used by rebels and quite recently by junta forces during their military campaigns," said one journalist in Bo, who added that the road's capture would facilitate ECOMOG's advances east towards the Kailahun District, long an RUF stronghold.

Patten to tackle key Northern Ireland police reform issue

LONDON (AFP) — Former Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten has been offered the job of reforming Northern Ireland's police force, a key part of the province's peace agreement and a prime step in achieving reconciliation between its Catholic and Protestant communities.

Mr. Patten, 53, having negotiated with some success one diplomatic colonial minefield, is said to have accepted the challenge of another.

But the former Conservative Party chairman will need all his diplomatic skills if he is to find common ground between Catholic nationalists, who want to see the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) disbanded altogether, and the Protestant Unionists who want to keep it intact.

He will head an independent commission on the police which will be set up if voters in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic approve last month's peace deal in referendums north and south of the border in May 22.

The agreement calls for "a professional, impartial force free of all political control and answerable to the community".

At present the force comprises almost 90 per cent Protestants and has a history of partisan reprisals against Catholics, who regard the force as serving Protestant interests exclusively.

The choice of Mr. Patten, a Roman Catholic, was welcomed by the Ulster Unionists, the Protestant majority party in the province. The party's number two, Ken Maginnis, described him as "a man of outstanding ability."

He said he was someone who would understand the implications of policing in a divided community like Northern Ireland.

During a period as a junior minister for Northern Ireland in the 1980s, Mr. Patten built a reputation for impartiality and was respected across the political spectrum.

He at one stage infuriated Unionists by allowing nationalists in Londonderry to rename their local authority Derry City Council.

Unionists were also delighted that Prime Minister Tony Blair had rejected demands from Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, for the appointment of some non-British figure.

Sinn Fein is expected to generally welcome the appointment of a Catholic.

Mr. Patten won general approval from the nationalist community for the way he handled the peaceful handover of Hong Kong to China last year. They have often referred to this example of a successful transfer of sovereignty to illustrate

their own long-term goal of the unification of Ireland.

News of Mr. Patten's appointment came as a delegation from the African National Congress was arriving in Belfast to try to help foster peace at the request of Sinn Fein and the British Labour Party.

Last week, Northern Ireland's police chief Ronnie Flanagan made a plea for his force not to be disbanded, saying that it had been the "bulwark between anarchy and disorder."

But at his meeting with Mr. Blair at 10 Downing Street Monday, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams repeated the long-standing republican demand for disbandment of the RUC and also raised the issue of withdrawing British troops from Northern Ireland.

"These issues need to be dealt with because they are injustices... wrongs need to be righted," he said.

Sinn Fein will decide at a special conference in Dublin on May 10 whether to endorse the April 10 peace deal in the upcoming referendums.

Mr. Adams said the leadership would be putting "positive proposals" to the conference and emphasised the "achievements" made by republicans in the agreement.

News editor released in Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) — The chief editor of the independent Nigerian news magazine Tell, Onome Osifo-Whiskey, arrested in November, has been freed from jail, the independent daily Punch reported Tuesday.

The newspaper did not say when Osifo-Whiskey was freed, but the report would make him the third journalist to be released by the military regime of General Sani Abacha in a week.

Last Friday, Mohammad Adamu and Soji Omonode,

both journalists on the weekly African Concord, were freed after being held respectively since July and October last year.

Osifo-Whiskey was arrested at his Lagos home on Nov. 9, following the publication of an article weeks earlier reporting that the health of the 54-year-old Gen. Abacha was deteriorating.

The Tell editor was held in secret for two months after his arrest.

He said he had been relatively well-treated throughout

his detention, Punch reported.

Gen. Abacha's regime at the weekend held federal parliamentary elections as part of its announced plans to restore civilian rule in October. The opposition called for a boycott and the reported turnout was very low.

All five authorised political parties in Nigeria have urged the junta leader to stand for the post of head of state, but the general has not publicly said whether he will run to succeed himself in civilian guise.

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Former Rwanda premier to enter genocide plea

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — The U.N. tribunal trying ring-leaders of Rwanda's 1994 genocide said Jean Kambanda, prime minister during the three-month slaughter, will enter his plea Friday.

Mr. Kambanda, 42, was arrested in exile in Kenya in July last year and transferred into the custody of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania.

The ICTR statement Monday night did not comment on why he had spent nine months in detention before entering a

plea. He has been indicted for genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, complicity in genocide and crimes against humanity.

If found guilty, he could face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Mr. Kambanda was appointed prime minister on April 8, 1994, two days after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed when his plane was shot down over the capital Kigali. President Cyprien Ntaryamira of neighbouring Burundi died in the same crash.

The killing of Habyarimana sparked the genocide by hard-liners in Rwanda's majority Hutu tribe who butchered an estimated 800,000 minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates. It ended when mainly Tutsi rebels took power in early July, 1994.

The ICTR statement described Mr. Kambanda as "the highest ranking Rwandan ex-political leader indicted for genocide and detained by the tribunal."

He will enter his plea a day after publication of an embargoed report by Amnesty International which is strongly

critical of the ICTR's procedures.

The same statement said Colonel Alphonse Nteziryayo, commanding officer of the military police at the start of the genocide, has been arrested in the West African country of Burkina Faso at the ICTR's request.

He is also indicted for genocide crimes and his arrest brings to 25 the number of accused persons in the ICTR's custody.

By contrast, Rwanda's jails are crammed with 130,000 genocide suspects.

King visits Tunisia today

(Continued from page 1)

Ben Al Hussein visited the Copenhagen Municipality premises, where they were received by Queen Margrethe, her husband Prince Henrik and Danish royal family members, in addition to senior Danish officials and the Copenhagen mayor, who hosted a luncheon in honour of King Hussein and Queen Noor.

King Hussein also opened a Jordanian-Danish conference on economic relations between Jordan and Denmark, organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) and the Danish Industries Union (IDU), in cooperation with Denmark's honorary consul, Tawfiq Kawar. The King attended the signing ceremony of an agreement between JBA, IDU and the Danish Chamber of Commerce.

On Monday, in an address at a dinner banquet hosted by the Danish queen, King Hussein praised the strong and friendly relations between Jordan and Denmark, and stressed the importance of the efforts being made to establish peace in the Middle East region.

The King voiced hope that efforts to establish Mideast peace will not fail, adding that Jordan is determined to continue the struggle for "peace to come to our region."

"We once again send this message to the world, the message of the followers of the three great monotheistic religions, the descendants of the children of Abraham."

King Hussein said that peace between Jordan and Israel is only one of many tracks which are yet to come together.

"Jordan and Israel are at peace now, and I am determined, as is my government and the people of Jordan, not to have it become a peace between governments, but a peace between people, and we shall strive to ensure that people get to know each other and tear down the walls that have separated them for too long."

"We are essentially the same people, with the same hopes, the same fears and the same aspirations," the King said.

"We hope that we will contribute to peace throughout the entire region, so that Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace, and the Palestinians can enjoy their legitimate rights on their legitimate soil," the King added, voicing hope that the Syrian and Lebanese dimensions of the peace process be addressed once and for all.

Musa predicts failure in London

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Netanyahu returned to Jerusalem from Cairo, underlining his fierce rejection of U.S. pressure to accept the proposal, which he says demands Israel hand over too much land to Arafat's Palestinian National Authority.

Mr. Musa slammed Mr. Netanyahu's hardline stance. "Peace cannot come at any price. Peace has a meaning, and it is not that which Netanyahu calls for," he said.

He said there must be an Israeli troop withdrawal "to the lines of June 1967," referring to Israel's borders before its 1967 occupation of the West Bank.

Speaking later to the Palestinian Legislative Council, Mr. Musa called for Israel to end its occupation of the Palestinian territories, and Syria's Golan Heights to bring "a new era of historical reconciliation between the Arabs and Israel."

He also called on Israeli pro-peace groups to "take a historic stance against any policy which opposes peace and puts it out of our reach."

"A stand by the forces of peace in the region, both Arab and Israeli, will open a new page in Arab-Israeli relations and bring hope for a better future in the region," he said.

Mr. Musa, on his first official visit to Palestinian-controlled territories, also signed a series of 14 agreements for cooperation between Egypt and PNA in education, trade and industry.

Security Council rolls over Iraq sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

Guofang accused Mr. Butler's inspectors of behaving like "an army of occupation." Western diplomats said.

Mr. Butler rejected the charge as "unacceptable." "How can 100 people occupy a country of 22 million people?" he asked.

Mr. Ben bit back that he actually had meant to say that the UNSCOM inspectors were behaving in an "arrogant and insolent manner."

The council's session was interrupted when the 15 council members marched down to a U.N. basement hall for a 90-minute meeting with two Iraqi ministers who have been lobbying for the sanctions lifting in New York since last week.

"We believe that they cannot get the lifting of sanctions by propaganda and making false statements," Mr. Richardson said after the informal council meeting with Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Al Sahhaf and Oil Minister Mohammed Amer Al Rashid.

Mr. Richardson, who holds cabinet rank in the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton, did not shake hands with the Iraqi delegation, and remained silent throughout the meeting, according to those present.

Mr. Al Sahhaf reiterated the Iraqi position and warned the council to take seriously the recent warnings from the Iraqi government that relations with UNSCOM could be harmed unless the sanctions were lifted immediately.

Mr. Weston, meanwhile accused Iraq of attempting to obtain an end to the crippling oil embargo while continuing covert weapons programmes.

"I don't want this organisation, whose international standing at the moment I wish were higher than it is, to be duped by this policy of the big lie, which recalls only one thing — other dictators earlier this century," said Weston.

"We're not going to be bad by that, and we're going to sit there as long as it takes, and get it right," Mr. Weston said.

Behind the lines in Cyprus

By Clare Lunngrigg

ON A WARM April evening in the Cyprus resort of Ayia Napa, a few regulars were drinking in the Old Ship Inn, as close to a British pub in decor, atmosphere and smell as you could wish to find overseas. Among the dark red curtains and brown furniture, Manchester United scarves and barrels of heavy, Jeremy Caprio, a 35-year-old British holidaymaker, was drinking at the bar. The owner, Michael Marcou, a middle-aged Cypriot with grizzled hair and glasses, was chatting to him.

"Jerry was a regular here," Marcou says. "I've known him for many years. He has so many Cypriot friends, and follows Cypriot football. We don't know what happened. He was a bit drunk when he left here, and he said he was going on a pub crawl. I heard the bad news the day after." The bad news was that Caprio had got in a fight with a group of British soldiers coming out of a disco later that night. By one account, Caprio and his sister Lisa had been drinking with a bunch of soldiers, and when one of the soldiers started groping her things had turned ugly. All of them were very drunk. Outside the disco, Caprio had been set upon. While Lisa and her cousin screamed and tried to pull the soldiers off, he was beaten to the ground and kicked in the face. Cypriot doctors who treated him in hospital feared he would lose the sight in one eye.

Five soldiers, members of the First Royal Tank Regiment serving with the U.N. peacekeeping forces on the island, were arrested at the scene by Cypriot police; four of them were subsequently released. The U.N. immediately declared Ayia Napa off-limits to troops. British forces, painfully aware of the media glare that lights on them abroad, particularly in Cyprus, followed suit.

Last week the pubs and restaurants of Ayia Napa, jumbled shoulder to shoulder throughout the narrow lanes of the resort, were doing a fine business. Bass boomed out of the open-fronted bars on the square, where small groups of tourists whose holiday brochures talked of a "fishing village" looked overwhelmed at the choice of flashing lights and bars half a kilometre long. Young Cypriots and Scandinavians pressed flyers on passing tourists: "Two shots free with every cocktail." But the cavernous pubs normally filled by groups of British soldiers, the Volcano, the Alexander, the Minos, remained empty all night.

Only one bar, the Jasmin Inn, whipped up anything like an atmosphere as the DJ romped about, karaoke mic in hand, music blaring over the floor, awash with lager at 10 p.m. Girls in small shiny dresses jiggled at their table and sang along. The army ban was due to be lifted at the end of the Easter week celebrations, when another incident occurred which could have major implications for British-Cypriot relations. Late on Saturday night, an off-duty policeman was driving home through the resort of Protaras, near Ayia Napa, when he saw a man weaving around in the road on a bicycle.

He later told a friend that he had stopped to see if the man was all right. The man was clearly drunk, and said in English that he was going to Ay Nick (Ayios Nikolaos, the British army base). He moved towards the back door of the car, and the policeman stopped him, saying: "I'm not a taxi driver." The man turned on him, punched him through the window, dragged him from the car and beat him up. The car was later found ablaze outside the army base perimeter fence.

He was hospitalised for four days with suspected concussion and a deep cut on his forehead. Police view the incident extremely seriously, though the chief constable said he was "not entirely confident" that the military authorities would deliver the guilty man. "There have been cover-ups in the past," he said darkly.

Army spokesman Mervyn Wynne Jones said an identity parade at Dhekelia base had produced no positive result, and declared: "There is no indication whatsoever that it is a British soldier." Whether the attacker was a soldier or not, the incident has grave implications for the army in Cyprus, and could intensify feelings of ill-will. By one account, the villagers are very angry. If a British soldier has attacked a Cypriot, rather than a tourist, and a policeman at that, it could result in a spate of revenge attacks. If no soldier is found, Cypriot police may accuse the army of a cover-up.

Relations between Britain and Cyprus go back a long way, and there is a deep ambivalence in their attitudes to each other. In the 1950s, the war for independence saw vicious attacks on both sides and horrific public executions. The concession of two British sovereign bases on the island when Cyprus was granted independence in 1960 remains a source of resentment to some, and of lucrative employment to others. But the British failure to mobilise in Cyprus defence when Turkey invaded in 1974 remains sharp in many minds.

The Turkish invasion is a continuing agony for Greek Cypriots in the Ayia Napa area: from here, displaced families can still see their lands and their homes, usurped or gone to ruin, just a few hundred metres away across the Green Line. "You were the guarantors of the independence of Cyprus and you didn't do anything; you sat in the bases and did nothing," one restaurant owner said, leaving me in no doubt that the British bear collective responsibility for what happened. His family had been divided at the time of the invasion and some members have been missing ever since.

In many ways, relations are surprisingly good. Many Cypriots have relatives living in England, most seem to have worked here for a few years, most speak English. "There is no resentment towards the British," says Elias Asprou, owner of a restaurant in Ayia Napa and head of the local restaurateur's association. "We get a lot of British tourists here and they are very welcome. English people have told me many times they are ashamed of what these people are doing." Like other restaurant owners, Asprou finds

the soldiers' drunken behaviour deeply offensive — and he is aware that the offence is deliberate. "They called one of my waiters 'Woggy'. My English is better than most people's, I know what it means to call someone Wog. They say things like: 'Serves you right what the Turks did to you. They should have chased you into the sea ...' People are very sensitive about the situation, they've got to be careful. If someone said that to me and I had lost a sister in the war, I would kill him." The behaviour of some extremely drunk soldiers is viewed as the exception, but its impact is colouring local feeling.

"They try to show off, to be tough and macho, they are aggressive and hostile. Soldiers have stolen many vehicles just to get back to the bases. They don't come out to have fun, they come out to give people a bad time." Taxi drivers in the square queued up to tell me tales of soldiers' drunken behaviour — although all agreed the troublemakers were a minority. "You drive them all the way to Dhekelia or Ay Nick, half an hour, and they say: 'Can you leave us round the back?' then they run away. If there are three or four of them and you are alone in the middle of nowhere, what can you do?" "They insult us - you f...ing this you f...ing that, they are sick in the cab, they take knives and slash the car seats, they insult us." One had his taxi rammed by a drunk soldier in a stolen jeep. Another watched as soldiers overturned a hired car. Another had seen a soldier jump, or fall, through a large glass shop window. One had been caught driving through the square when a fight broke out between soldiers from different regiments. "They were smashing glasses, throwing tables. They broke everything in the square. The Liberty pub was a total loss." And do the taxi drivers ever retaliate? There are smiles all round. "The Cypriots love a fight," says James Woodley from Wembley, who works in the only British-run pub, the Buzz. "The taxi drivers are the worst. They're really quick to mosh up."

"The soldiers fight tourists, they don't fight Cypriots, they wouldn't dare," said a young Cypriot outside a disco bar, breaking off to herd a large group of British lads into the neon-lit cavern. "If they start trouble we are there in hundreds, the word spreads so quickly." This is confirmed by army records, with 29 reported incidents of assault on personnel between May and December last year. But the drivers make a huge amount of money from ferrying soldiers to and from the bases — as do pubs and restaurants. The British army brings a huge amount of money to the island, between salaries and spending by off-duty soldiers. The months of curfew that followed the murder of Danish tourist Louise Jensen by British soldiers was felt keenly by local businesses. Only a minority of Cypriots welcome the current ban. "They are not good for business — they are very, very good," says Kyriacos Hadjilias, who owns the Blue Paradise bar in the town centre. "They spend maybe £50 in an evening here. We wouldn't want them

sent away." Drinkers in Ayia Napa are tribal: there are Scandinavian pubs, English pubs and army pubs. Owners do all they can to brand the bars, and show the punters where they belong — the Rose and Crown, the Bulldog Inn and the Queen's Head all compete for British business. But what people do in Ayia Napa is drink.

"There's a total drink culture here," says James at the Buzz. "They do know how to drink, the soldiers. They order B-52s by the pint." (A B-52 is a sticky mess of Tia Maria, Cointreau and Baileys, usually served in a shot glass.) "There's trouble here every night. Because it's such a drink place, there's a push and a shove and a broken nose every night at the height of the season. Every night you see people throwing glasses at each other." Steve Sharp, owner of the Buzz, used to serve with the British army in Cyprus. When he was transferred to Germany, he bought his way out and returned. He has seen Ayia Napa grow from fishing village into the flashing, flickering, beer-sticky resort it is now. "Soldiers have been a major part of Ayia Napa's growth. Soldiers have invested a lot here. They come here every night. And people who have served here come back with their wives and kids on holiday." Steve confirms that life on the island can be dull for the 3,000 soldiers, who spend their days guarding the bases and need to let off steam when they get the chance. "Dhekelia doesn't have anything for soldiers to do when they're off duty. They work long hours in the heat, they need to relax. The soldiers do three days on the line, it's hard work, hot, and they don't know why they're there. Nobody thanks them..." Steve's hair is cut short and dyed blue. He wears two earrings, black varnish on his fingernails and blue on his toes (he removes his trainer to show me). Michael Marcou from the Old Ship across the road is his Cypriot partner, and the two interact like father and son, arguing about the placement of tables and patting each other on the arm. Steve knows his public. He has built walls round the bar strong enough for people to dance on. He has got soldiers giving out flyers on the beaches. And he employs five people to mix with the drinkers and make sure there's no trouble. Ten years ago, Michael had his car stolen by British squaddies who used it to get back to the base and had a crash on the way. "It was a total loss. It was a BMW," he says, and laughs. The army paid him part of the car's value. He does not seem bitter. "I put five cents on the price of beer for them," he laughs again. Army tax.

He doesn't seem bitter. In fact, Michael's attitude sums up the ambivalence of Cypriots towards the British soldiers in general. "Maybe I have good reason to be angry but I like to see the whole picture. At the beginning we had good reason to fight them if they told us to f... off. Now we encourage them to drink. We say, 'Why are you not drinking?' If they don't drink we don't like it."

— The Guardian

Mubarak urges Netanyahu to try save Mideast peace

(Continued from page 1)

President Yasser Arafat in London next Monday.

Mr. Stegman, who heads a foreign relations council project to encourage peace, said he felt the U.S. emissaries' shuffling between Israeli and Palestinian officials are pushing an American proposal to restart peace talks "more forcefully than ever before."

Mr. Indyk, an assistant U.S. secretary of state, and U.S. special Mideast envoy Dennis Ross are both in the region to encourage the reopening of peace talks (See separate story).

After his nearly 90-minute talks with Mr. Mubarak, Mr. Indyk declined to say if the U.S. effort was making gains.

But he said that the United States "is concerned about the consequences if we do not now achieve that breakthrough to put the process back on track." He said that Mr. Mubarak shares with American officials "the feeling that time has come for implementation and to move ahead so we can resume the negotiations on all the other (Mideast peace) tracks as well," meaning Israel's talks with Syria and Lebanon.

COPEX boasts participation of over 80 international companies

(Continued from page 1)

military industry exhibited some of its products, and the Oman-based Engine Engineering Company, showed high grade machine gun mountings ranging from light and medium to heavy.

The U.S. firm Smith and Wesson exhibited different types of pistols that could be used by military and police personnel.

Other weapons and equipment used by anti-riot forces were also presented.

Yesterday, commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Jordanian Special Forces, troops demonstrated a free fall jump and target shooting with live ammunition.

Colonel Meteb Daboubi, the spokesman of the organising committee, told reporters that most of the military equipment on show are used by the special and rapid deployment forces. Col. Daboubi denied news reports that Israel was not invited to attend the exhibition because several Arab states would object to its presence at the fair.

"Invitations were extended to the Israeli government and [Israeli] firms," Col. Daboubi said. "They declined to take part in this exhibition. But if there was any interest in this exhibition, it was from Israeli businessmen."

"There were no reservations from Arab states to Israel's participation

Kuwait to free 25 Jordanian detainees — report

(Continued from page 1)

Newspapers reported earlier this month that some inmates at Talha had slashed their wrists in protest against alleged abuse and illegal detention.

It was not clear if two Jordanians among those who tried to commit suicide were included in the group of prisoners to be freed.

Officials could not say whether the 25 Jordanians to be released from Talha were the same persons scheduled to receive a visit by their relatives next month.

Earlier this week, Kuwait officials announced that a group of 41 Jordanians and Palestinians would be allowed to visit 25 relatives imprisoned in Kuwait. On Feb. 25, 1997, a group of

10 Jordanian prisoners were pardoned by the Kuwaiti authorities. Only six of them, however, were able to return home 10 days later. The rest could not afford to pay overdue residency fees.

According to unofficial figures, some 60 Jordanians were sentenced by Kuwait security courts for "collaborating" with Baghdad during its seven-month occupation of the Gulf state. Relations between Jordan and Kuwait soured during the 1990-1991 Gulf war. The emirate downgraded its diplomatic representation here to the level of chargé d'affaires because of Jordan's perceived support of Baghdad during the conflict. Kuwait refused to let Jordan reopen its Kuwait City embassy after Iraq was driven out in 1991.

Bilateral ties, however, have improved in the past year-and-a-half, with the foreign ministries of the two countries announcing plans to restore full diplomatic relations last June and Kuwait Airways resuming flights to Jordan last July after a seven-year suspension.

in the exhibition. It was purely an Israeli decision not to take part," the military official said.

He also said that a high ranking Syrian delegation attended the exhibition, but he declined to name the Syrian participants.

Col. Daboubi added that a large proportion of the weapons that are exhibited are made in the Middle East, particularly in Egypt and Jordan.

The military official did not rule out military contracts between participants to be concluded during the exhibition, but said that it was "too early to judge the size of such contracts."

More than 500 mustard-gas shells U.N. accounted for: Butler

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The top U.N. weapons inspector has informed the U.N. Security Council that Iraq has failed to account for more than 500 mustard-gas filled shells, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

U.N. Special Commission chairman Richard Butler briefed the council on the U.N. accounted-for shells on Monday.

He declined to provide figures to reporters at a news conference here on Tuesday but said that a previous analysis of four 155-millimetre rounds had shown that the mustard was still of a 97 per cent purity despite the weapons' age.

A U.N. official who declined to be identified told AFP that "if they are still hidden in Iraq, they may still be militarily dangerous."

Butler told the council in a closed-door session on Monday that between 500 and 700 155-mm mustard-gas filled shells remain unaccounted for. Iraq had also failed to account for about 250 mustard-filled bombs, he said, according to diplomats.

While Ross reports no progress, U.S. tells PNA it will not change its proposal

(Continued from page 1)

decisions about. We are talking about security," Mr. Naveb told Israeli Radio.

Israeli officials have said that Israel was considering a pullback from 11 per cent of the land, but would not agree to hand over 13 per cent.

Tayar, the settler spokeswoman, said even 9 per cent was too much. Under such a withdrawal, Israel

would hand over land linking the West Bank towns of Jenin and Nablus that are now under Palestinian control, and also withdraw from areas southwest of the town of Hebron, the Haaretz daily said.

"We feel extreme frustration with our supposed allies — the Americans," Mr. Tayar said. "Israel is being pressured into endangering its security, while pressure on the Palestinians

to stop terror has been forgotten along the way." Meanwhile, Israel announced it would seal the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Tuesday evening to Saturday evening as Israelis mark their memorial day for fallen soldiers, followed by Israel's 50th independence day. Under the closure, more than 2.4 million Palestinians are barred from entering Israel.

National conference to examine Jordan unemployment in August

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government plans to hold a national conference in August to look into the issue of unemployment plaguing Jordan and try to find solutions to the problem that is hard-hitting the country's young, an official said Tuesday.

The conference aims at looking into ways to find a solid ground on which solutions for the unemployment problem could be found, the official said.

Experts from local universities, professional unions, international organizations and the public and private sectors, will take part in the upcoming conference, he added.

The government says unemployment stands at 15 per cent. However, independent economists and a research centre estimate joblessness at between 22 to 27 per cent.

Weak yen, Asian crisis balloon U.S. trade gap

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. trade balance showed its biggest deficit in six years in February, widening under the twin pressure of the Asian financial crisis and a weakening yen, economists said.

The deficit with Japan widened to \$5.3 billion, the largest since October 1997, up from \$4.3 billion one year ago.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Trust your experience over whatever is being said, especially by salespeople or politicians. Also, be wary of following a friend's lead this evening. All the information isn't in yet. Be careful, or you might find you've gone quite a long way in the wrong direction.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) One of your friends seems to be going through an upsetting situation. You might be called on to provide financial assistance or a place to stay this weekend. The change appears to be for the better, rather than for the worse, although that may be difficult to see right now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The first thing you have to deal with this morning is an older person's confusion. He or she means well, but sometimes causes problems. Be on the lookout so you can stay out of the way. Gather with friends around the middle of the day to plan your next course of action.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) You'll hear a lot of interesting things via the grapevine, but don't believe them all. Somebody who's spreading rumours has a personal agenda. Check the facts before you repeat anything, especially if the rumours have to do with a co-worker or someone else you like very much.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There's one hassle after the other all day long. Luckily, most of them don't affect you directly. Your assignment is to provide stability in an otherwise unstable world. You create stability just by saying so. That's why people come to you when they need it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to avoid an argument with your mate first thing this morning. You could fight over something that ordinarily would not cause any concern at all. You're nervous and irritable and worried about lots of things. But you can overpower all that.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have the potential to get into trouble today. There are lots more interesting things to talk about than the work you should be doing. The hard part will be keeping your mouth shut and your opinions to yourself. Just watch what you say and who you say it to until after dinner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Choose your words carefully. You can listen without inhibition, however, especially around the middle of the day. Something you overhear at lunch could help you put the puzzle pieces together. Don't be too obvious about it, but do go out searching for clues.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are difficulties to overcome, but they're not all your problems. Some of them will fall in the laps of other people. Do pay attention to where you're going, and to the work that needs to be done. Give that work your top priority and make sure you keep the overall objective in mind.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Continue negotiations, even if you run into brick walls while you're at it. It looks something you want and something another person wants are diametrically opposed. Actually, there's always a compromise that can be reached. The challenge today is to find it.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your true love is in a nasty mood today. Things are not going quite the way he or she wants. It's not your fault, but you can help. Be extra kind and compassionate. Let the other person talk, and make yourself available to listen. You could offer advice, of course, but only by request.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There's a lot going on at work, and your boss is rather confusing, too. It might feel like everybody wants a little bit of your time. Your emotional reservoirs are full, but they're getting drained rapidly. Make sure you're taking care of yourself while this is going on.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

Industrial states pledge open markets, but stumble on investment

PARIS (AFP) — Industrial countries reaffirmed their commitment to open markets here Tuesday, but were baying such trouble with a planned accord on investment liberalisation they gave themselves a six-month breathing space before resuming talks.

Development (OECD) said in a communique after their two-day annual ministerial meeting here.

But at the same time they agreed on a six-month period of "assessment and further consultation" for their planned Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), after three years of talks failed to produce an agreement by this week's deadline, already postponed from a year ago.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama, who co-chaired the meeting, insisted that there was "no suspension or delay or pause" in the negotiations, despite ministers' decision not to hold any further formal negotiating sessions until October.

But French Minister for European Affairs Pierre Moscovici said that France had won a six-month "suspension" of the talks.

Canadian officials welcomed the fact that ministers agreed to continue the talks, because a minority of countries had wanted an outright suspension to decide whether to go on with it at all.

Ministers also welcomed an OECD report detailing evidence that open markets and a global economy create jobs and boost living standards, which in many ways addressed public concerns in OECD countries that the MAI in particular would kill jobs by enabling developing countries to cut environmental and labour standards to attract foreign investment.

The ministerial meeting also welcomed reforms undertaken by crisis-hit Asian countries to get their economies back on track, and stressed the importance of a quick return to financial stability and economic growth by pursuing such measures.

In the first part of the communique, issued at the end of Monday's talks, they welcomed what they said was a "substantial" Japanese reform package aimed at kickstarting its ailing economy.

But they also "noted" the Japanese government's intention to implement it quickly, and said that further progress in strengthening the financial system and structural reform of the economy would help establish a "sound basis" for domestic demand-led growth.

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Castro predicts capitalism's downfall within 100 years

HAVANA (AFP) — The Americas' lone communist head of state, Cuban President Fidel Castro, has forecast an end to capitalism within 100 years.

"Capitalism cannot last 100 years," President Castro predicted in a wide-ranging 4-1/2-hour speech.

"Maybe it won't even last another 50 years, because these days everything is moving at a faster pace," he said.

President Castro, who has introduced limited market-based reforms to try to help boost food production and built up international tourism to woo hard currency to fund his government, said most of the world's woes could be blamed on hard-line capitalism, now in a phase of globalisation.

He said capitalism took a toll not only on the economic but also the cultural front.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1 Social climber
5 Georgia city
10 Trolley
14 Hoop
15 Open-mouthed
16 Pitcher
17 Abu Dhabi leader
18 Subscribe again
19 Country road
20 1987 Beatty film
23 Family member
24 Tokyo, once
25 Nat'l TV network
26 Scamps
28 Bikini part
32 Characteristic
37 Tie with a rope
38 ... put (spec)
39 With 52A, 1969 Redford film
42 Pot starter
43 Sexologist
44 "Harem Nights" co-star
45 Della
46 A Redgrave
48 Study
49 Greek letter
50 Practice monkey see monkey do
52 See 39A
56 Sister and wife of Zeus
61 Wiser
62 Part of the eye
64 Seed cover
65 Fred's dancing sister
66 PBS series
67 Abound (with)
68 "As the — Turns"
69 Pesky insect

6 Noted film critic
7 Site of Christ's first miracle
8 Candid
9 Capital of India
10 Musical instrument
11 Not home
12 Tear
13 Elder or alder
21 Bridge position
22 Today's LPs
25 Standing by the plate
26 Kirby of "City Slickers"
27 Spiffed
28 Murdered
29 Social class
30 Donkeys
31 Called
32 sheepishly
33 Wash eyes
34 Pilgrim John
35 Cool down
36 Walkover in a tournament

40 Lumberjack's tool
41 Hang in folds
46 Sch. in Petersburg
47 Holy hymn
49 by (just managing)
52 " — Girl"

53 Alternative to present
54 A great lake
55 Groove cut into a board
56 Last of a teen?
57 Foster film
58 Fa
59 Opera star
63 Posed

Peanuts

EVERYBODY IN THE WORLD HAS A DOG. WHY WON'T MOM LET ME HAVE A DOG?

A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD DON'T HAVE DOGS.

WHY WON'T MOM LET THEM HAVE A DOG?

Andy Capp

YOU NEVER LEARN! NEVER A THOUGHT ABOUT HOW YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL IN THE MORNING!

...ALL RIGHT, MY MISTAKE...

HE ALWAYS FEELS FINE IN THE MORNING — HE DOESN'T OPEN HIS EYES TILL LUNCHTIME

Mutt'n' Jeff

HERE'S A GOOD JOB, MUTT. GET ON THE END OF THE LINE, SHOO!

JUST FOR THAT, I WON'T JOIN THE OFFICE HORSE RACE ANY OF YOU!

ANYWAY, THANK YOU.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

SOMETIMES I GET TIRED OF BEING THE SMART ONE AROUND HERE!

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Noel Arnold and Mike Anglin

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOKYM

SINUM

RALFOL

SPOUTH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: YOKEL MAJOR NEARBY NODDER
Answer: What the racing fans considered the victory lap — A "JOY" RIDE

Business Daily
A review of
Higher price
cement compa

THE INCREASE in the price of cement sold in the local market has a role in improving the price of the Jordan Cement Factory (JCF) board chairman. The board of directors of the JCF, which is a public company, has decided to increase the price of cement from JD15.5 per ton to JD16.5 per ton, a 6.5 per cent increase. The board also decided to increase the price of cement from JD15.5 per ton to JD16.5 per ton, a 6.5 per cent increase. The board also decided to increase the price of cement from JD15.5 per ton to JD16.5 per ton, a 6.5 per cent increase.

REUTERS
The Business

Major Currencies & Cross

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US Dollar	1.744	2.998	
DE Mark	0.5572		2.3336
GB Sterling	1.6680	2.9838	
CH Franc	0.6689	126.19	2.4613
JP Yen	0.0076	13.586	2.4528
CA Dollar	0.6955	1.2916	2.4226
IL Lira	0.0006	1.0104	2.3274
NT Guider	0.4955	88.88	2.2964
FR Franc	0.1583	0.2981	2.2895

Energy

Oil	Last	review
Brent	13.94	13.68
WT Texas	15.50	15.40
Domestic	13.94	13.68
Dubai	12.58	12.18
US Gas	156.00	155.00

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	307.4	307.9
Silver (oz's)	6.12	6.15
Platinum (oz's)	405	407
AL (3 Months)	1474	1477
CU (3 Months)	1376	1380
Zinc (3 Months)	1122	1126
Lead (3 Months)	574	576
Ni (3 Months)	5585	5585

Main Equity

Source	Index	Value
New York	DOW JONES	8961.4
New York	S&P 500	1093.2
London	FT-SE 100	3814
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16388
Paris	CAC 40	3777.2
Frankfurt	DAX	3078.6

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Kemp keeps Cavaliers from NBA sweep

CLEVELAND (AFP) — Shawn Kemp refused to let his new team fall victim to the same old fate in the National Basketball Association playoffs.

Kemp scored 31 points, including a key late basket, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat Indiana 86-77 here Monday to avert a first-round sweep in their best-of-five opening round playoff series.

The Cavaliers snapped a seven-game playoff losing streak and avoided being swept in the first round for the fourth time in five seasons, thanks largely to the former Seattle star forward.

"I'm no Superman or anything," Kemp said. "I have played before in the playoffs and have played well. I have just tried to be consistent with my play in the playoffs."

The night's other game saw San Antonio beat visiting Phoenix 100-83, giving the Spurs a 2-1 edge in their series, which continues Wednesday.

The Cavaliers try to win

their seventh in a row over Indiana, and 16th in 18th tries at home over the Pacers, here on Thursday in hopes of forcing a fifth game Sunday at Indianapolis.

Cleveland's Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 13 points, igniting a 9-0 run that put the Cavaliers ahead 68-61 with nine minutes and 41 seconds to play. Wesley Person sank a three-point basket to cap the spurt.

The Pacers pulled as close 80-77 when Dale Davis dunked with just over a minute to play. But Kemp nailed two free throws, and after a miss by Reggie Miller, hit a 15-footer with the shot clock running down to seal the victory.

"Shawn really made the plays inside," Miller said. "We didn't execute down the stretch at all. That's not typical of us."

Kemp made 11-of-21 shots from the field and 9-of-10 from the line.

"Kemp showed everyone that he knows what it's like this time of year and what

level you have to play if you're going to move on," said Cavaliers coach Mike Fratello. "I think he was determined to do everything that he could to not let this series end."

Dutch center Rik Smits scored 26 points and Miller added 18 points for Indiana, which had the second-best record in the Eastern Conference this season. Mark Jackson broke his club playoff record with 17 assists.

"I want these guys to know that Thursday is probably going to be a tougher game," Indiana coach Larry Bird said. "The Cavs want to take it to a Game Five, so they are going to have to be prepared, every one of them."

"We hantled out there tonight, but we just didn't have a lot of players who played as well as we thought they would. We had too many guys who really didn't step it up. And for some reason we had too many guys that didn't play."

At San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 22 points while David Robinson scored 17 points, pulled down 12 rebounds and blocked four shots.

The Spurs had five double-digit scorers and used their superior height to full advantage over the speedier Suns.

"It feels good not to have to score 30 points a night," Robinson said. "I feel better if I can deny them shots inside. We didn't give them easy transition buckets. In the last game they burned us with that."

Charlotte and the Los Angeles Lakers can become the first clubs to advance to the second round by winning road games Tuesday to complete 3-0 sweeps. The Hornets are at Atlanta while the Lakers visit Portland.

Also continuing Tuesday is the heated rivalry between New York and Miami, with the series even 1-1. The Knicks can advance with two home triumphs over Miami.

Trainer hints at Jackson's replacement

CHICAGO (AFP) — Even as the Chicago Bulls continue their quest for a sixth National Basketball Association title in eight years, personnel moves are being made to signal the breakup of the club.

The search for a new trainer for the Chicago Bulls has touched off increased speculation that coach Phil Jackson will not be retained for next season, a move that would likely drive away star Michael Jordan.

American football trainer Dean Kleinschmidt of the New Orleans Saints was contacted by Iowa State University coach Tim Floyd about serving as his trainer next season on the Bulls, Saints coach Mike Ditka said.

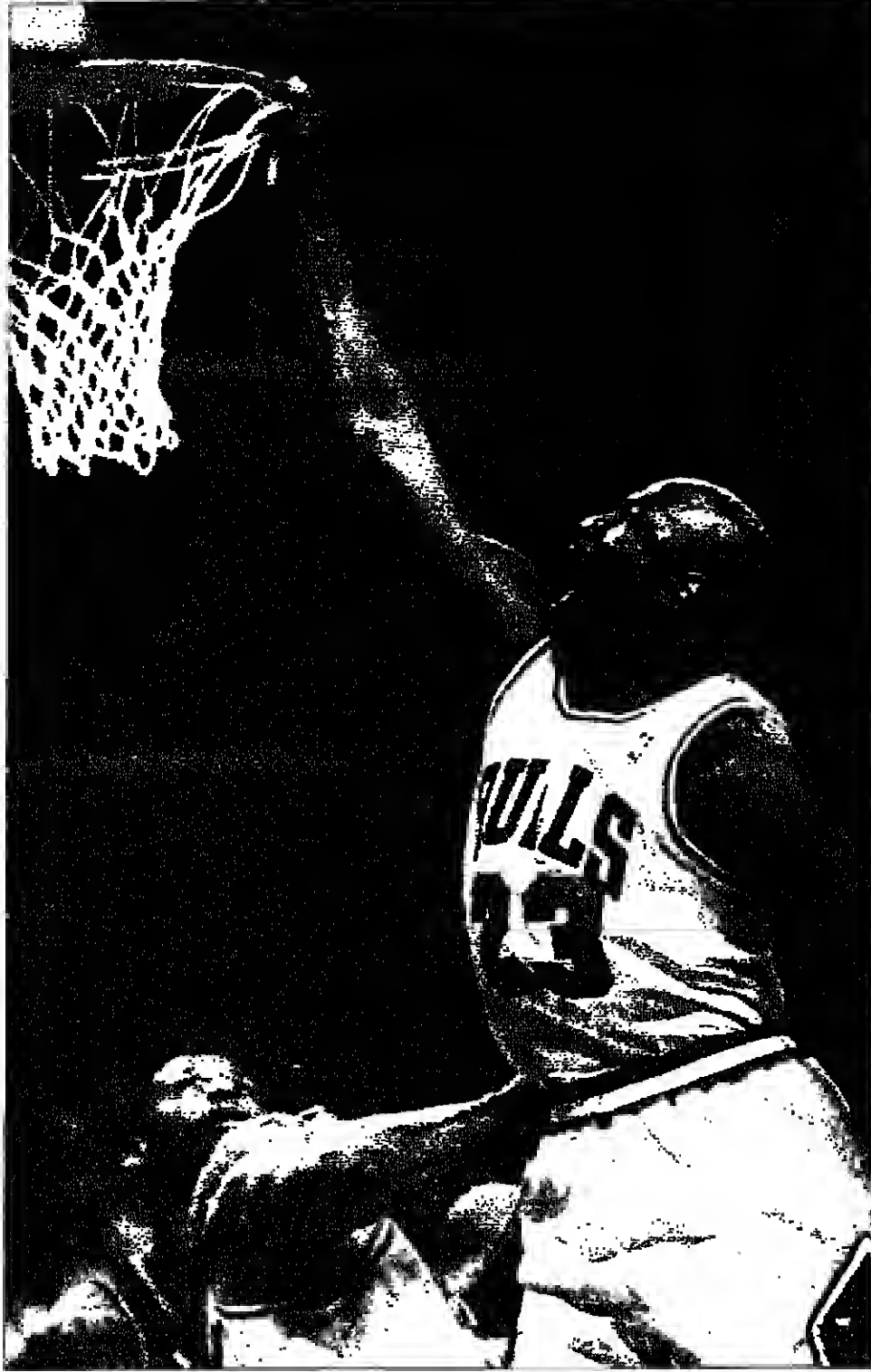
Kleinschmidt said he had talked with the Bulls and said Floyd did not contact him on behalf of the team. Floyd could have contacted the trainer on his own behalf with an eye toward the team's future, however.

Ditka, former coach of the Chicago Bears, said Kleinschmidt spoke with "the new coach" of the Bulls and replied in the affirmative when asked if that meant Floyd.

"I have not interviewed Dean Kleinschmidt," Floyd said in a statement that ignored the possibility he spoke with Kleinschmidt in a less formal manner about the job.

Floyd has been tied to the Bulls because he is a friend of club general manager Jerry Krause, whose hard-line attitude ignores Jordan's vow that he will not play for a coach, other than Jackson.

Floyd, in a statement, said several trainers from across



Chicago Bulls ace Michael Jordan

the United States have contacted him regarding the Bulls' post because his name has been brought up as a likely successor.

"I told them they should call Jerry Krause," Floyd said.

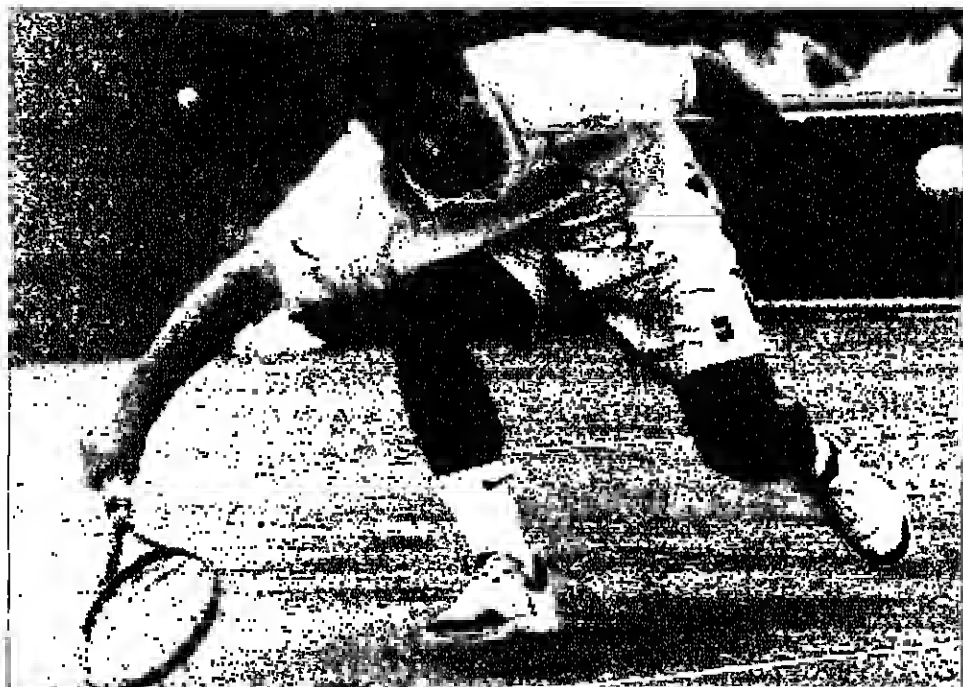
Krause hired Jackson for the season by saying, "It would be Jackson's last."

Krause has been concerned that if the Bulls wait too long to begin roster changes they might be uncompetitive for several years after the title run ends.

Krause has also alienated Bulls star Scottie Pippen, who has sought a new contract in vain and will be a free agent after this season.

NBA star now serving as a television commentator, warned that any moves regarding the Bulls' future without consulting the current club stars could hurt the championship bid.

"It will only upset Scottie and Michael and make them want to leave," Johnson said.



Pete Sampras

Sampras returns to top in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AFP) — American Pete Sampras reclaimed his place atop the ATP Tour world rankings here Monday after the one-month reign of Chile's Marcelo Rios came to an end.

Now he tries to see if he can reach the quarter-finals for the first time in four tournaments.

Sampras, 16-5 this year, is the top seed here at the \$315,000 ATP Challenge, which began Monday with second seed and 1997 runner-up Jason Stoltenberg of Australia beating Peru's Luis Horna 6-3, 6-4.

Rios ended the 102-week reign of Sampras on March 30 by winning at Key

Biscayne, but fell back when an inflamed left elbow prevented him from defending his title last week at Monte Carlo.

Sampras, set to open here later this week against fellow American Alex O'Brien, beat rival Andre Agassi at Monte Carlo but then suffered his worst loss in eight years, falling to France's Fabrice Santoro 6-1, 6-1.

Sampras, 26, only moved to the top because Czech Petr Korda failed to reach the Monte Carlo final, which would have earned him enough points to vault from third to first.

Korda settled for second with Rios third, 10 points ahead of Australian Pat

Rafter and 106 better than number five Greg Rusedski of Britain.

Third seed Jim Courier, who beat Michael Chang in the U.S. Clay Court finals Sunday, will open later against Mauricio Carlsson, a Brazilian qualifier.

Andrei Pavel of Romania, who picked up his first career ATP Tour title two weeks ago in Tokyo and reached the Clay Court semi-finals, faces Armenian Sargis Sargsian in the first round.

Uruguay's Marcelo Filippini, who captured his first career ATP Tour title here last year, will not attempt to defend his title at the event, which pays \$45,000 to the winner.



Petr Korda

Spurs' Duncan named NBA's top rookie

NEW YORK (AFP) — San Antonio forward Tim Duncan was named the National Basketball Association's Rookie of the Year here on Monday.

Duncan averaged 21.1 points and a team-high 11.9 rebounds a game for the Spurs, who returned to the playoffs after making the former Wake Forest University star the top selection of last year's NBA Draft.

The seven-footer is only the second Spur so honored, the first since his front-line partner David Robinson received the award in 1990.

The only rookie to play in this year's All-Star Game, Duncan joined Ralph Sampson and Robinson as the only players to sweep the NBA Rookie of the Month awards for a season since it began in 1981.

Duncan received 113 of 116 votes from a panel of North American sports journalists. New Jersey forward Keith Van Horn claimed three votes.

The 97.4 per cent vote for Duncan was the greatest since Shaquille O'Neal, now a center with the Los Angeles Lakers, received 98 per cent in 1993.

Duncan paced all NBA rookies in scoring, rebounds, blocks and shooting percentage as well as leading the NBA with 57 double-doubles — 10 or more of two different statistical categories in a single game.

Duncan also averaged 2.7 assists and 2.51 blocked shots while starting all 82 games for the Spurs. He ranked third in the NBA in rebounds and fourth in shooting percentage at 54.9 per cent.

SCOREBOARD

American League

Boston	6	Detroit	5
Anaheim	3	Baltimore	1
Oakland	7	Tampa Bay	6
NY Yankees	1	Toronto	0
Chi White Sox	10	Cleveland	3
Texas	9	Minnesota	4
Seattle at Kansas City	Postponed		

National League

Houston	4	NY Mets	3
Cincinnati	3	Philadelphia	1
St Louis	7	Montreal	0
Florida	5	Colorado	4(10 Innings)
Atlanta	6	Arizona	5
Milwaukee	3	Los Angeles	2(13 Innings)
Chicago Cubs	3	San Diego	1
San Francisco	6	Pittsburgh	5

National Hockey League

First round playoffs (series best-of-seven).

• Eastern Conference quarterfinals

Montreal 3 Pittsburgh 1

(Montreal leads series, 2-1)

Buffalo 6 Philadelphia 1

(Buffalo leads series, 2-1)

• Western Conference quarterfinals

St Louis 4 Los Angeles 3

(St Louis leads series, 3-0)

English Premiership

Crystal Palace 0 Man. United 3

(Crystal Palace are relegated)

Spanish League

Real Sociedad 1 D. La Coruna 1

Whitbread protest upheld

BALTIMORE (AFP) — EF Education's protest against Whitbread Round the World yachting race rival Toshiba was upheld here on Monday, ruling veteran skipper Dennis Conner was at fault.

Toshiba was penalized two places, falling to ninth and last in the seventh leg and moving EF Education up one spot to eighth for the leg.

The protest jury ended 4 1/2 hours of debate by ruling Toshiba failed to give right of way to the all-female crew, violating collision at sea rules just 95 minutes into the seventh leg April 20 off Fort Lauderdale.

"I'm happy. It's not only a racing rule but a safety issue," said France's Christine Guillou, skipper of EF Education. "We all take risks. However it's essential we realize where the limits lie."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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COLLECTING THE MAXIMUM

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

In first seat few players would open the South hand with a weak two- or three-bid — there's too much chance of missing a heart game, or even slam, by so doing. Even worse was South's decision to take an advance sacrifice at five diamonds, giving the opponents two bites at the cherry. While it did keep East-West out of six clubs, it gave them the option of reaping a lucrative penalty.

East followed with the nine of spades to West's opening lead of the king of spades — a suit preference signal for a heart shift. West obliged by leading a low heart to the king, won the return with the ace and continued with the four of hearts for partner to ruff.

This time it was East's turn to underlead an ace. West won the club shift with the king and another heart allowed East to overruff dummy's queen of diamonds with the king — down four for an 800-point penalty.

At the other table East-West did not come close to the club slam, playing the hand at three no trump and scoring two overtricks after a diamond lead. That was a handsome gain for a pretty defeat against undisciplined bidding.

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	2♠	3♠	4♠
5♦	6♦	7♦	8♦
9♦	10♦	11♦	12♦
13♦	14♦	15♦	16♦
17♦	18♦	19♦	20♦
21♦	22♦	23♦	24♦
25♦	26♦	27♦	28♦
29♦	30♦	31♦	32♦
33♦	34♦	35♦	36♦
37♦	38♦	39♦	40♦
41♦	42♦	43♦	44♦
45♦	46♦	47♦	48♦
49♦	50♦	51♦	52♦
53♦	54♦	55♦	56♦
57♦	58♦	59♦	60♦
61♦	62♦	63♦	64♦
65♦	66♦	67♦	68♦
69♦	70♦	71♦	72♦
73♦	74♦	75♦	76♦
77♦	78♦	79♦	80♦
81♦	82♦	83♦	84♦
85♦	86♦	87♦	88♦
89♦	90♦	91♦	92♦
93♦	94♦	95♦	96♦
97♦	98♦	99♦	100♦

Opening lead: King of ♠

There is a cardinal rule when you preempt: Bid the maximum your hand warrants with your initial preempt, then stay out of the auction. South ignored this precept in a team match, and paid a heavy price.

PHILADELPHIA '1' CRYING FREEMAN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PHILADELPHIA '2' Yusra & Ilham Shahin ... in DANTELLA (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PLAZA The biggest cinema production TITANIC Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.	CONCORD CONCORD '1' KIM BASINGER ... IN L.A. CONFIDENTIAL Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD '2' ISMAILIA RAYEH GAI - KAMANANA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	GALLERIA 2 ABDOUN TITANIC & One of Walt Disney's best movies FLUBBER	GALLERIA 1 ABDOUN GRAND OPENING TITANIC & SCREAM 2	Hisham Yanes Theater TEL: 4625155 STARTING APRIL 6TH Don't Laugh Please We're Jordanian Starring Hisham Yanes, Amal Dabbas, Rania Kurdi and the group at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call: 4640155/4625155
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Sports

Red Sox rally to win again, edge Indians 6-5

BOSTON (AFP) — Mike Timlin and David Nix hit eight-inning home runs to give the Boston Red Sox another comeback win, 6-5 over the Detroit Tigers on Monday night.

The Tigers lost their fifth straight game, dropping to 4-17, matching their worst record since 1969. Detroit was just one win away from losing its 17th straight game.

The Red Sox won their fourth straight game, and moved to 17-10 with their sixth win coming in their eighth game. They have won six of their last 15 games.

Timlin hit a two-run home run in the seventh inning, and Nix hit a two-run home run in the eighth to give the Oakland Athletics a victory over the San Diego Padres.

Timlin delivered the winning hit off Pedro Martinez (10-11), who walked the bases before blowing a 4-3 lead in the eighth inning. The Red Sox won their fourth straight game, and moved to 17-10 with their sixth win coming in their eighth game.

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Pittsburgh

Barry Bonds bottom of the

CLEVELAND (AFP) — In the bottom of the ninth, Barry Bonds hit a home run to give the Pittsburgh Pirates a 6-5 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

Bonds hit the home run in the bottom of the ninth, giving the Pirates a 6-5 victory over the Indians.

The Pirates won their fourth straight game, and moved to 17-10 with their sixth win coming in their eighth game.

WW Open

Henman storms

ATLANTA (AFP) — Briton Tim Henman collected his second world title here on Monday, defeating Andre Agassi in the final of the World Wide Open tennis tournament.

Henman won the final 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, defeating Agassi in the final of the World Wide Open tennis tournament.

The World Wide Open tennis tournament is one of the most prestigious tennis tournaments in the world.

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Red Sox rally to win again, edge Indians 6-5

BOSTON (AP) — Mike Timlin pitched eight innings to give the Boston Red Sox another comeback win, 6-5 over the Detroit Tigers on Monday night.

The Tigers lost their fifth straight and dropped to 4-17, matching their worst start ever. Detroit has lost 11 in a row on the road.

The Red Sox won their seventh straight and improved to 17-6, with eight wins coming in their last at-bat. They have won 14 of their last 15 games.

• Athletics 7, Devil Rays 6: In St. Petersburg, Florida, Kevin Mitchell drove in three runs, two of them on a ninth-inning single, to give the Oakland Athletics a victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Mitchell delivered the game-winning hit off Roberto Hernandez (0-1), who walked the bases loaded before blowing a save opportunity for the second time in four tries.

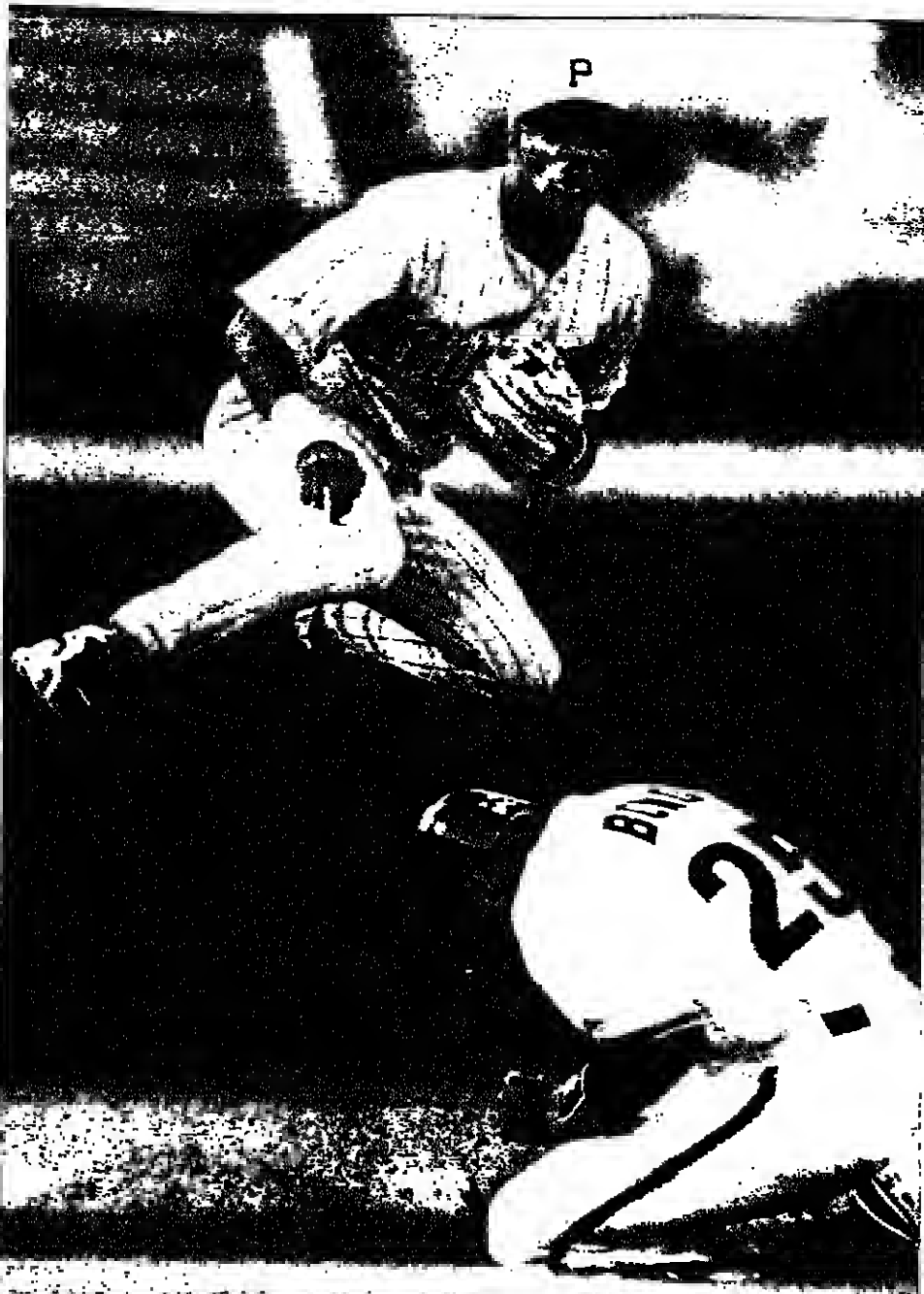
Fred McGriff homered twice and drove in five runs, and Miguel Cairo hit his first Major League homer for Tampa Bay, which led 5-0 before Oakland scored five runs in the fifth to tie it.

• Angels 3, Orioles 1: In Baltimore, Chuck Finley won his 14th straight decision as the Anaheim Angels extended their winning streak to five games.

Finley (4-0) gave up four hits over eight innings, struck out nine and walked six. His winning streak, which began last July 1, is three short of the AL record held by Johnny Allen and Dave McNally.

Finley, who gave up five runs to Baltimore in his previous start, retired the side in order only once but lowered his ERA to an AL-best 1.54.

• Yankees 1, Blue Jays 0: In New York, the Yankees beat Roger



Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop Tony Womack (top) sails over San Francisco Giants Barry Bonds (bottom) to complete a double play on a ball hit by Jeff Kent to end the bottom of the first inning in San Francisco (Reuters photo)

Clemens for the second time in less than a week and won for the 14th time in 15 games.

Clemens (2-3) allowed just three hits in seven innings and struck out eight to pass 2,900 for his career. But the four-time AL Cy Young winner was done in by his control, walking six as he lost at Yankee Stadium for just the fourth time in 14 career decisions.

Andy Pettitte (4-2), who beat Clemens 9-1 at Toronto on April 22, got a third-inning sacrifice fly from Tino Martinez and survived a line-drive double play off his hip to win his fourth straight start.

• Rangers 9, Twins 4: In

Minneapolis, Rick Helling joined teammate Aaron Sele as the majors' only five-game winners and Lee Stevens homered as the Texas Rangers beat the Minnesota Twins.

Helling, from nearby Fargo, North Dakota, struck out 10 in 8 2-3 innings. He gave up eight hits and walked three while improving to 5-0 in front of a personal cheering section down the right-field line of at least 300 people.

Helling, who left after allowing two hits in the ninth, joined Sele and Kevin Brown (1990) as the only Rangers pitchers to win their first five starts in a season. Sele picked up his fifth victory Sunday.

Stevens tied a club record with his eighth homer in April, and Juan Gonzalez drove in another run, giving him 33 in the month — one shy of Tino Martinez's major league record.

• White Sox 10, Indians 3: In Chicago, Robin Ventura went 4-for-5 with two RBIs and rookie Mike Caruso hit a two-run triple, leading the Chicago White Sox over the Cleveland Indians.

Ventura doubled in the fourth, hit an RBI single in the fifth, an RBI triple in the sixth and a single in the eighth. He has three four-hit games this season.

The Indians have lost eight of 11.

AC Milan play final card

ROME (AFP) — AC Milan are hoping for one moment of glory in an otherwise disastrous season here on Wednesday night, when they take on Lazio in the second leg of the Italian Cup final.

Once the emperors of Europe, mighty AC Milan are now the paupers of the Serie A, clinging desperately to a fortunate 1-0 lead from the first leg in San Siro three weeks ago.

Their league form has been so poor — witness Sunday's goalless home draw with Serie A whipping boys Napoli — that AC Milan are not even good enough to qualify for this summer's Intercontinental Cup.

Coach Fabio Capello readily admits: "It hasn't been a good season, in fact it's been a disaster."

Club president Silvio Berlusconi has already started planning next season's revolution, agreeing terms with Udinese for the Serie A's top goalscorer, Oliver Bierhoff of

Germany.

But he won't be there on Wednesday night, and only George Weah's 90th minute header from keeper Sebastiano Rossi's monumental goal-kick will give them hope of a place in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Weah, who will probably be partnered by Maurizio Ganz instead of Dutchman Patrick Kluivert up front, said: "The Italian Cup is all we've got left."

"In Rome, we've just got to win, that's all there is to it. Even if we have to leave an arm or a leg behind afterwards."

French hardman Marcel Desailly wants a first-round knockout, saying: "We've got to score early, that way we'll be able to control the game."

Croatian Zvonimir Boban will lead the charge from midfield, supported by Demetrio Albertini, with Capello still to choose between France's Ibrahim Ba and Yugoslav interna-

tional Dejan Savicevic on the right.

Leonardo is meanwhile away on international duty with Brazil.

But if it's Milan's last throw of the dice, Lazio also have a lot to prove after a month in which nothing has gone right for the club.

At one stage, they were shooting for a place in the European Champions League, if not the Italian championship title itself.

In the dramatic free-fall since then, Lazio have lost three and drawn one in their last four games, losing all possible hope of either objective.

The defeat at San Siro will clearly not help matters on Wednesday, and neither will a twisted knee for Croatian striker Alen Boksic, who will miss this final and the UEFA Cup one on May 6 against Inter Milan.

Coach Sven Goran Eriksson admitted: "Unfortunately, in our last few league matches it has been easy for our opponents

to score goals."

"And at the same time, we seem to need to create a lot of chances at the other end before we're able to score ourselves."

"That said, I genuinely believe that when it comes to the cup, the concentration and the commitment will be different."

Lazio will be relying on Roberto Mancini and Pierluigi Casiraghi up front, but will be without Argentinian defender Jose Chamot, who suffered a thigh muscle injury in Sunday's 2-1 defeat to Parma.

Mancini said: "I don't know whether we'll manage it during the 90 minutes, extra time or on penalties. But we've got to win."

And he added: "Casiraghi is the man who is going to lift the cup for us. He's been unlucky recently, but he deserves an important goal. We'll score for sure. The thing will be to stop them doing so."

United keep up title pressure as Palace go down

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United kept alive their fading title hopes with a 3-0 win which condemned Crystal Palace to relegation from the English Premiership at Selhurst Park on Monday.

England midfielders Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt both scored early on before Andy Cole wrapped up the win with United's third seven minutes from time.

The victory closes the gap on leaders Arsenal to just one point, but the defending champions have played two games more and have only two more left to play.

Basement club Palace, meanwhile, make a prompt return to the first division after just one season back in the top flight.

Victory was essential for Alex Ferguson's side as a defeat to Palace and an Arsenal win over Derby on Wednesday would have seen the Gunners crowned as champions.

In 37 league meetings between the two sides there



Crystal Palace's Sasa Curcic (L) is tackled by Manchester United's Nicky Butt during their crucial Premiership clash at Selhurst Park (Reuters photo)

has never been a goalless draw, and after just six minutes Scholes ensured the sequence continued with an excellently worked goal.

The match started at a frenetic pace before Teddy Sheringham and Andy Cole combined to let in Scholes, who timed his run from midfield to perfection before hurrying a low shot under Palace keeper Kevin Miller.

United, with just two wins in their previous seven games, looked anything but jaded after a gruelling season and they scored a sec-

ond on 21 minutes to virtually guarantee the three points.

Cole again played a key role in the goal, flicking the ball over his head into the path of Butt, who dummied the Palace defence before firing home a low shot from the edge of the area.

United continued to press with David Beckham and Ryan Giggs both going close with efforts from just outside the area.

The defending champions continued to create chances after the interval and Cole should have made it 3-0

when he put a free header wide of the target from eight yards.

The game flowed from one end to the other with both sides going all out for goals, and Palace should have reduced the deficit 20 minutes from time when Neil Shipperley missed an open goal from five yards.

Palace were the only Premiership team that Cole had never scored against, but he ended that record on 83 minutes when he walked the ball into the back of the net after more good work by the dynamic Scholes.

BMW Open

Henman storms back to reach 2nd round

MUNICH (AFP) — Briton Tim Henman collected his thoughts after losing the second set and stormed back to defeat German challenger Jens Knippschild 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 on Monday to reach the second round of the \$525,000-BMW Open.

The fourth seed from London made up for last week's opening round loss on clay in Monte Carlo as he imposed his game on Knippschild, ranked 122 on the ATP Tour list.

Henman plays a second-round match against Swede Thomas Nydahl, who beat Christian Vinck of Germany 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

British top seed Greg Rusedski was to play a late afternoon match Tuesday against another German opponent, Oliver Gross.

Third seed Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion, continued the misery for Goran Ivanisevic, sending the stumping Croatian out in the first set until the Briton's backhand return landed just outside the baseline for a break point to Knippschild in the

week in Monte Carlo. "I don't have any confidence."

Holder Mark Philippoussis spent less than an hour in renewing his clay court superiority over Spaniard Julian Alonso, earning a 7-5, 6-4 win into the second round.

Philippoussis, seeded fifth, beat the world No. 41 Spaniard last week to start at Monte Carlo, but took three sets for that victory.

On Monday, the Melbourne big hitter needed a mere 36 minutes on the Centre Court to advance.

"I came onto the court and got a lot of good feelings remembering how well I did last year," said the defending champion from Melbourne.

"It's important for me to feel comfortable."

Philippoussis secured the only two breaks of the match against the 20-year-old Alonso, in the closing game of each set.

Henman's attacking tennis kept the match against Knippschild level in the first set until the Briton's backhand return landed just outside the baseline for a break point to Knippschild in the

seventh game.

The German took a 4-3 advantage when a Henman return clipped the top of the net and flew out wide for 4-3 to the challenger.

Henman gathered his resources quickly for a break back as the German came up short on a drop shot, leaving the Briton two break points. One was enough for Henman thanks to another unforced error from Knippschild.

Henman held for 5-4 and secured the set after 30 minutes. The fourth seed put over a perfect backhand winner to leave himself with three set-winning chances.

One missed overhead from the increasingly error-prone Knippschild ended the set in Henman's favour.

The German's resistance stiffened in the second and he pressed Henman to the limit in the lengthy seventh game.

Henman saved three break points — one from a Knippschild unforced error,

the second on a smash and the third a backhand down the line — before the challenger managed to break with a backhand pass for 4-3.

But the German, who had won only two matches — the last in early February — coming into the contest, dropped his serve in the eighth game when he smashed a return wide, getting Henman back into contention at 4-4.

The security of the break back did not last. Henman found himself facing three break points a game later and fell to 4-5. Knippschild levelled the sets after 75 minutes, winning an exchange of volleys at the net.

Henman took charge again in the third, racing through to victory with the loss of only one game to complete the contest in one hour, 37 minutes.

Sporty 200 increases appeal of Rover cars range

THE SPORTY agile Rover 200 has been launched in Jordan by the Jordan Automobile Company (JAC).

Manufactured by Britain's largest car manufacturer, Rover Group, the Rover 200 is the latest car to bear the distinctive Rover Badge, adding a young, dynamic and sporty vehicle to the range of Rover 800 and 400 cars already available in Jordan.

The new Rover 200 series offers owners new visual flair, more significant than any previous Rover, with a low sporting stance and aggressive profile to underline its performance and quality. Powered by the award winning K-series engine, the 1.4 litre sixteen-valve Rover 200 offers exceptional performance with impressive fuel economy.

The interior of the new Rover 200 reflects the grace and exhilaration of the exterior, with special trim materials and colours adding detail to the fascia, door casings and seating, and a notably high "feel-good" factor.

Safety is paramount throughout the Rover cars range, with top priority on primary and secondary safety, and testing well beyond mandatory legislation. Standard on the Rover 200, twin airbags are provided along with front seatbelt pre-tensioners, which work in combination to give the ultimate protection. Side intrusion beams have also been placed in all doors to ensure maximum side impact protection.

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